FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1987

Lebanon

Hostages — The Organization of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) announced its decision to postpone the execution of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin for a week in light of the appeal by Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, AFP reported. The ORJ statement, which was accompanied by a photograph of Normandin, warned that France must send "delegations" to provide the "necessary clarifications" of French policy. It said this "will either improve the situation or mean that blood flows." The ORJ also threatened new terror attacks inside France if the French Government does not fulfill its demands.

In another development, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced the release of a kidnapped Saudi diplomat during an 18 March press conference reported by Voice of National Resistance radio. Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an also spoke at the conference, disclosing that Amal had taken measures to release the diplomat after receiving information on his whereabouts. Kan'an had earlier expressed confidence that the four kidnapped Beirut University College teachers will be released soon, according to Beirut radio.

Security — Fighting continued between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila areas, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. "Informed" sources cited by the radio asserted that the Syrians have supplied the Amal Movement with weapons and ammunition which they confiscated on their arrival in West Beirut, noting that this has caused resentment among other organizations, particularly the PSP. The "Lebanese Liberation Front" claimed responsibility for killing two Syrian soldiers in a machine gun attack the night of 17 March, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Three IDF soldiers were wounded by mortar fire in the central sector of southern Lebanon 17 March, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Gulf War: Shipping Attacks

Iraqi planes attacked two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast in separate raids 17 and 18 March, according to a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Both targets received "accurate and effective blows."

Earlier, marine insurance sources in the Gulf revealed that a Cypriot oil tanker was under tow to Dubayy after being damaged by a missile launched from an Iranian vessel near the island of Abu Musa, Nicosia radio reported.

Iran

The Ministry of Intelligence announced further charges of kidnapping and murder against Mehdi Hashemi, who was arrested last October, Tehran radio reported. Two more arms caches belonging to Hashemi and his group were discovered, and the ministry said it had been able to "foil the conspiracy of this dangerous group."

In a televised confession 17 March, Hashemi and two of his accomplices admitted they had murdered three men last year, IRNA disclosed. They described their crimes and called their actions "totally unislamic" and "totally deviated."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak called on citizens to be vigilant and stand against any attempts to incite sedition, referring to attempts to rouse sectarian strife which accompanied the People's Assembly election campaigns, MENA reported. In a 17 March speech to local leaders in Al-Minya Governorate, Mubarak said that providing the opportunity for a group "to sow the seeds of hostility between Muslims and Christians" aims at destroying the entire community.

Israel

The cabinet attaches great importance to the fact-finding committee into the Pollard affair and will "honor its conclusions," the cabinet secretary announced in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem television after a 17 March cabinet meeting. In a related development, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Hadassah Convention that he is certain there are no Israeli spies operating in the United States, Jerusalem radio noted.

Tunisia-Algeria

Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk held "rich and very important" talks with his Algerian counterpart Taleb Ibrahimi and President Chadli Bendjedid 17 March, Algiers radio reported. According to APS, Ibrahimi and Mabrouk examined developments in the Maghreb with a view to providing new impetus to the fraternity and concord treaty.

Morocco

King Hassan II received visiting Chadian Foreign Minister Gouarra Lassou, who brought a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre, MAP announced. Paris radio added that the meeting dealt with the military situation in Chad and the possible return of former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei to Ndjamena.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a final meeting with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih 17 March, JANA noted. In a statement to JANA, Salih affirmed his visit achieved "positive results."

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[Hamidah Na'na' Addis Ababa dispatch: "Soviet-Cuban Move To Abort Arab Mediations; Cuba Mediates Between Comrades in Aden"]

[Excerpts] The crisis caused by the January 1986 events is still having an impact in both South Yemen and North Yemen and causing difficulties in the relations between the two parts of Yemen. Since the departure for Sanaa of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the political and military leadership supporting him, Northern towns have continued to receive thousands of refugees from the South, most of whom are supporters of the former South Yemeni president. According to the latest statistics, the number of these refugees has reached approximately 50,000. This places a heavy burden on North Yemen, which is compelled to deal not only with the political situation resulting from the fighting between the two factions of the YSP, but also with the economic effects of this situation.

North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made efforts and offered mediation for national reconciliation between 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters and the Aden rulers, but his efforts always clashed with the rejection of reconciliation by Southern officials in Aden. During the recent Islamic summit in Kuwait, delegations of both parts of Yemen met on the periphery of the summit. The Northern delegation submited three proposals to the Southern delegation which can be summed up as follows:

The resumption of dialogue in Aden between the YSP and the supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in the North or the holding of a plenary meeting of the Central Committee with senior officers of the Armed Forces from both sides attending;

The realization of national reconciliation similar to that declared by Najibullah in Afghanisatan and supported by the Soviet Union;

The declaration of an absolute and unconditional general amnesty that would ensure for everyone returning to the country the political rights he enjoyed previously, providing that a committee is set up consisting of the PDRY and Kuwait or any other country that Aden officials, together with the Arab League, would nominate to oversee the direct negotiations with those who have fled to the North and to ensure the necessary guarantees for their return.

The Aden authorities' response was to reject the first and second proposals and accept the third proposal with the exception of the point regarding Arab League involvement. Thus Kuwait became involved in the Yemeni crisis and the Kuwaiti Government was informed that Sanaa and Aden had accepted its meditaiton. So, Kuwait sent a delegation headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi and including the Kuwaiti ambassadors in Sanaa and Kuwait as members as well as two senior Kuwaiti officials in mid-February. [passage omitted]

The first meeting between the three delegations took place in the town of Ta'izz near the southern borders, and on the second day the delegations moved to Sanaa to meet with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters on the understanding that direct talks would be held between the two sides of the YSP under the supervision of the Kuwaiti delegation and the North Yemeni delegation. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was asked to prepare a list of his delegation. This was formed under the leadership of 'Abdallah Ghanim, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs before the January 1986 events.

On the day scheduled for the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister asked for a meeting to be held between the Kuwaiti delegation and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. In fact, the meeting did take place in the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa. In the 3-hour meeting, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stated his position, which the Kuwaiti delegation understood. Then it was agreed that direct talks should begin forthwith. In fact, the Kuwaiti delegation and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's delegation entered the meeting hall, but the Aden delegation was late arriving, only to declare half an hour later its refusal to hold any direct talks with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, giving the excuse that the dialogue should take place only between Aden and Sanaa.

The mediation came to a halt at this juncture, but it was hoped it would be resumed on 2 March during a visit to Aden by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, accompanied by one of the North Yemeni ministers, to persuade the authorities there to accept the principle of dialogue with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters.

According to what *Al-Tadamun* learned from reliable sources in the Ethiopian capital, where 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was staying during the period between the collapse of the negotiations and the date fixed for the visit of the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs to Aden, the Soviet Union prompted Cuba to contact the former North Yemeni president to carry out a new mediation with the aim of putting an end to the tense situation caused by the presence of thousands of Southern refugees in the North.

Arab diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa confirm that this Cuban mediation is at the request of Aden and is desired by Moscow to prevent the Kuwaitis from continuing their efforts or to make them feel that Aden trusts mediation only by socialist countries.

The results of the Cuban mediation, being carried out by diplomats from Havana, are not clear thus far. The former South Yemeni president has refused to give any information or make any statement in this regard. The only comment that came from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters in the YSP Central Committee was a draft plan entitled: "The Current Crisis in Yemen and the Prospects for a Solution." The draft describes the crisis and its regional and international dimensions and proposes a four-point resolution:

Holding direct talks between the two sides of the YSP;

Preparing the climate for national reconciliation and a political solution through a number of measures, such as halting the trials of detainees in Aden and releasing them; halting propaganda campaigns; reinstating those dismissed from the party to their positions; suspending the steps being taken to convene a party congress until a political solution is achieved; and allowing the

return of all the dispersed persons to their homes, jobs, and political positions;

Considering the outcome of the third party congress, the internal organization program, and the Constitution as the bases of legitimacy in the light of which the Central Committee with all its members will be convened to reshuffle the leadership bodies;

Setting up a committee on which the two sides will agree to supervise the implementation of the steps to a political solution. [passage omitted]

Khalaf, Hawatimah on Political Settlement
JN161327 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Mar 87 p 17

["Strategic Dialogue" with Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, and Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, by Tawfiq Abu Bakr; place, date no given]

[Text][Abu Bakr] The issue of a political settlement is one of the major issues in the Palestinian arena. Do you see any real possibility for a settlement, and on what conditions? Is it harmful or useful to talk constantly about an imminent settlement so that our people will continue to have a cause for optmism, or will that make them complacement to wait for the relief coming from abroad? How, in practice, can we distinguish between political movement and the search for a political settlement? Is time in our favor, or is the land being lost and Judaized with the loss of time? What is your view on all such issues that stem from the main issue, that of a political settlement?

Abu Iyad: Any revolution in the world that respects itself and its principles must draw up political aims. The revolution does not fight just for the sake of fighting. Since the revolution's inception in 1965, we have tried to draw up a political line to give our armed struggle a tangible aim. In 1968, we put forward the slogan of a democratic state in all of Palestine where Muslims, Christians, and Jews coexist and enjoy equal rights. This was in response to the religious and racial fanaticism of the Zionists occupying our land. At the time, the proposal was welcomed by the world public, particularly by our friends in the socialist countries. Thus the first observation is that the revolution must draw up a political objective that it seeks to achieve by all means — political and military.

From 1967 until Black September [in 1970] in Amman, and also in Jerash and 'Ajlun [in 1971], we felt it was necessary to review the slogan of a democratic state, which remains sound as a strategic goal but is unrealistic at the present stage. Many friends talked to us about that political point. All the revolutions of the world had a short-term goal — a realistic goal that could be achieved — a tangible goal around which the people ralled. However, such thinking required objective circumstances so that it could be placed on the list of priorities and implemented. It was the October war [in 1973] that led to the attempt to seek a settlement through an international conference attended by all the parties of the conflict — a conference to discuss the fate of the territory occupied in 1967. For us, the discussion of the occupied territory without discussion of the national rights of the Palestinian people turns the conflict into an Arab-Israeli conflict where there is no place for Palestinian national rights. Therefore, we argued that the discussion of occupied Palestinian territory concerns us, because it involves our national rights. There is a difference between Israel's occupation of Arab territory, where the Arab states embark on a settlement to regain their territory, and Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, because talk about the settlement of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is related to talk about the Palestinian people's national rights. As we declared, these rights are the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent state in Palestine. It is for this reason that we reject Resolution 242: because the resolution refers to occupied territory, the fate of which is discussed by Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. We argued that the issue must be dealt with from its roots — namely that the land without the national rights does not constitute a solution to the conflict. Israel denies our national rights, and therefore it does not recognize the PLO but fights it ceaselessly.

We began dealing with the political settlement after the October war. The Palestinian rejection front, which objected to our dealing with the settlement in accordance with our aforementioned view, agreed unanimously in 1979 to the short-term plan we approved during the 12th PNC session in Cairo. That was tangible proof that our discussion of the political settlement after the October war was not wrong. If we had stayed outside the circle, the entire issue would have been discussed in our absence as an issue of borders between the Arab states and Israel under Resolution 242. We had to propose something that would place us as a basic party in any peaceful political settlement. These are our second observations. We began political action after October, while before that we only spoke about a political solution. That was a major qualitative step.

The question now is: Is there a real possibility for a political settlement? I do not believe so under the present Arab, Palestinian, and international balance of power. There is no possibility for a settlement in the foreseeable future. The talk about a political settlement is completely different from the conviction about a settlement that is within reach.

If I behave in the international arena under the impression that a political settlement is coming soon, then my work in the Palestinian arena, in the occupied territory, and among the masses will be very slow indeed. This is because everyone will also have the impression that a solution is coming within a few days. If I consider the settlement remote, this impression will be reflected in my internal work. I will consolidate my internal position and prepare the organization for a long struggle. I will not permit the masses to relax and dream that their state is around the corner. This is what led to frustration. When I tell my people that I want a fair settlement but that such a settlement is not within reach, everything changes. They will not have frustration, or optimism followed by setbacks.

Why should there be a settlement? The Palestinian ranks are divided. They were divided by Arab regimes that set up small agents within the Palestinian fortress and used them in presenting this picture of divisions. In their reality and substance the divisions are not large, yet they are large in form. People hear that there are seven Palestinian organizations. However, they do

not know their real strength. These organizations do not represent 10-15 percent of Palestinian action.

Therefore, the settlement is not within reach for objective reasons. It is also not within reach due to the Palestinian situation, the Arab situation, the Syrian-Iraq dispute, and the PLO-Syrian dispute. It is not within reach also because of the Iraq-Iran war and its vast toll on Arab manpower, its negative effect on the Gulf, and the new Arab polarization it has created: between those who are with Iraq and those who are with Iran. The situation is not any better in the Arab Maghreb, where there are Tunisian-Libyan disputes, and Algerian-Moroccan disputes over Western Sahara. Therefore, there is no real Arab solidarity on any issue and there are no concerted efforts.

The Palestinian situation is not ready for a settlement, and the Arab situation is in no position to press for a fair settlement. In the international arena, the USSR cannot be more Arab than the Arabs themselves or more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves. It can, of course, exert pressure if it has strong cards to place on the negotiation table with Washington. However, if Washington's card in this respect is a strong, unified, and superior Israel and the Soviet card is a divided Arab world that does not include Egypt, how can the Soviets press for a fair and evenl .nded settlement?

For all these reasons, why should Israel settle and why should the United States agree to any settlement when the Arabs are divided? In such a situation, the enemy camp imposes its terms, builds settlements, and pursues an oppressive policy in the occupied territory fully reassured of its superiority.

Through the Camp David accords Egypt has set the example for a separate settlement, and Israel cannot accept anything less than what is agreed to by the largest and strongest Arab state. For the Palestinians, this settlement would be no more than autonomy.

Israel believes time is on its side — that the Arab split will continue a long time. It is trying to widen the split and to give arms to Iran so the Gulf war will stay ablaze to consume all Arab resources.

Did we have illusions of a settlement in the past and did these illusions contribute to dividing our ranks? I can say that to some extent this is correct. Some of us might have believed that after 1982 and after the invasion of Lebanon, a settlement might be offered to the Palestinian people — a settlement that is less than our ambitions but better than nothing and that can be developed. Yes, such wagering took place in the past.

There is a theory among the Palestinian leaders that our end as a Palestinian leadership should not be like the end of Amin al-Husayni and his leadership; that is, to die without giving our people anything. In my opinion, these theories are not sound. They mean that we can accept capitulation and laugh at our people and at ourselves by saying that this is what we have achieved at this stage. In my opinion, the minimum acceptable political solution must include an independent Palestinian state. After its establishment, this state can enter into a confederation with any Arab side. The main thing is that an independent state must be established first.

After 1983, some Arabs though that this revolution was shaken and could be removed from the picture. Therefore, it was an opportunity to prepare a course and to present it. In 1983, Jordan presented a political plan whose real crux is the Reagan plan. The Reagan plan is based on Resolution 242, with the addition of some phrases that infringe upon Palestinian rights in general. What are these rights, and what are their horizons? The U.S. initiative did not deal with these issues. In fact, it was another Camp David in a new form, but not a new crux. We rejected the plan.

They then concocted the splits and the Tripoli war. They thought that after our second departure by sea in less than 2 years we were completely finshed.

Hence came the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. In my opinion, this accord contains a partial concession of the representation and of the confederation that comes after establishing the state, not with it or before it. This was a violation of the PNC resolutions. Despite all this, the planners rejected what we offered. They do not want partial concessions, but they want full concessions at one time. Therefore, a month after the accord, the Murphy plan came, and we rejected it because it withdrew the entire representation from us. At that time I said the Jordanian-Palestinian accord had reached a deadlock. If we gave up the representation, our national rights would end because the national rights and representation are linked to each other.

Throughout the years of struggle since the beginning of this century, our people have not been able to achieve an independent representation. Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni tried to make the Higher Arab Committee the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their national rights. However, the Arabs did not agree to this and often spoke on behalf of the Palestinians.

In October 1985, there was talk again about Resolution 242 to impose it on us. There was also talk that the right to self-determination is an internal matter between the parties to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. In my opinion, this talk was intended to serve an evil aim. If we liberated the land by force, this proposal would be correct and the right to self-determination would have been achieved immediately and without the approval of outside parties. However, the liberation of the land through a political settlement on which Israel and the United States agree is a different matter. The future of the land will be part of the conditions of a political settlement. Israel will only withdraw from the land if an agreement is reached in advance that no state on this territory will be established and the right to self-determination is not given to the people of this land. All they can have is conditional self-rule.

A question was raised: Which is more important — the territory or the national rights? In my opinion, if the formal return of the territory will obliterate the people's national rights, the situation under occupation will be better. This is because this occupation will end and the coming generations will know how to seize their rights. However, if we give up these rights in accord with agreements and arrangements, the comming generations will need a long time to remove the chains and continue the march.

From the very first day of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, I said the agreement is not what the United States and Israel want. What they want is another agreement in which there is no mention of the PLO or the Palestinian state and rights. I said so at several official sessions with Jordan. Perhaps the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement gave some people illusions or hopes that a political settlement is imminent, but the Palestinian leaders did not entertain any such illusions. The suspension of the political settlement process following the suspension of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination proves that what is being proposed does not meet national aspirations. Our people must understand that the circumstances are not favorable for any settlement: This is very important.

We strive in the political and diplomatic fields and in the field of armed struggle to acheive a just settlement. Such a conclusion makes it incumbent upon us to carry out internal measures to consolidate our internal situation, measures that affect the symbols [al-rumuz] and institutions to build a strong situation that will withstand a protracted battle.

Is time in our favor or in the enemy's favor? That is governed by a number of conditions. The form of the question may appear to be serious, as it contains deviationist intentions. What is important is how the enemy withdraws from the land, and on what conditions. That is the more important question. We have not rejected any real and balanced solution proposed to us. On the contrary, in many cases we are making concessions; perhaps it is this that tempts our enemy with the possibility of wresting even greater concessions from us.

There is a real difference between a political settlement and political movement. Yes, this is true. I can move politically at the United Nations, in Europe, and in the socialist countries, and explain our cause and our people's situation and try to win public opinion to support the just conditions for a settlement that I am demanding.

It is a search for a political settlement at any price, so as to escape a fate similar to that of Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni, that tempts one to deviate; in some cases such deviation is unintentional. In certain cases that makes us appear to be searching for any solution offered to us by mean people.

Nayif Hawatimah: With Al-Sadat's downslide toward capitulation following the October 1973 war and Egypt's abandonment of the Arab liberation movement and joining of Camp David, we lost a historic opportunity for a political settlement based upon complete the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and the realization of the Palestinian people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state. The national October war tangibly upset the balance of power in the Middle East and created new political and military facts, which, if they were positively exploited, would have developed toward a settlement that fulfills our people's national rights. The war violently shook the Zionist entity and ensured a state of Arab solidarity that made it possible to use oil as a political weapon for the first time. The international community was faced with the need to bring about a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian people's cause. However, such opportunities soon vanished, and the positive aspects of the war turned into negative aspects when Al-Sadat decided to enter into bilateral and separate settlements with Israel, sponsored by the United States, culminating in the signing of the Camp David accords in 1979.

Ever since that time no signs emerged in the Arab or international situation to lead on to believe, even for a single moment, that there is a serious possibility on the horizon for a political settlement within the framework of an international conference that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state, and that guarantees the rights of the other Arab peoples on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal and the PLO's participation as a basic, independent, and equal party and as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Such an outcome from the October 1973 war and the loss of the opportunities it created does not mean that the conflict has ended. Moves to bring about a settlement have become more active, particularly after the invasion of Lebanon. It is necessary here to pause at the differences — and indeed the contradictions — in views over the process of a Middle East settlement and of the conditions necessary for a settlement that fulfills the interests and rights of the Palestinian people.

There is the U.S.-Israeli solution. The proponents of this solution believe separate bilateral solutions constitute the best way to achieve a political settlement. The activities of the U.S. Administration through former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger defined the general features of this policy. Proceeding from this policy, successive U.S. Administrations pursued their moves until they reached the Camp David accords. The crux of this solution and this policy is based on the following:

1. Partitioning the Middle East question and the Palestinian people's cause and turning them from an issue of aggression and national rights into an issue of borders that can be solved through bilateral deals, mutual recognition, and complete normalization;

2. Canceling any political role the PLO may assume as an independent and equal partner in any solution to the conflict, bypassing the Palestinian people's national rights, and annexing the land and people through a fedeal or confederal union or other form;

3. Canceling a formula for the international conference with full powers and adopting a token formula based on excluding the USSR, the great friend of the Arab people, to prevent it from working in the interest of the Arabs, and confining the issue within an international umbrella that will only ratify results reached through bilateral and separate deals;

4. The various changes that took place in the U.S. position did not affect the essence of this position but were simply new tactics to attain the same objectives. Among these tactics are the Reagan plan and the manner with which the U.S. Administration dealt with the Amman agreement at the beginning. The U.S. Administration and some of its Arab friends exerted huge efforts to subdue the PLO leadership and have it agree to the U.S. conditions from 1983 onwards. They tried to make the PLO harbor dreams of a U.S. solution that would give something to the Palestinian people.

We have the national solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict and to the Palestinian cause that confronts the U.S.-Zionist solutions. The Palestinian democratic forces, particularly the DFLP, are the most enthusiastic forces and the party most committed to securing the requisities for this national solution. They are supported by the USSR, the socialist countries, and many Palestinian forces, parties, and circles. This solution links the PLO's incremental program as defined by the 12th PNC session in June 1974 with the UN General Assembly resolutions, the resolutions adopted by Arab summits on the Palestinian cause — particularly the Rabat, Baghdad, and Fes summits — the USSR's proposals, and the 1983 proposals by the higher political committee of the Warsaw Pact.

The common denominator among all these Palestinian, Arab, and international stands is the call for complete withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967, the convocation of an international conference with full powers to achieve this objective, and the participation of the PLO — the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative — in this conference to secure recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Since 1979, Arab parties have been vying with one another in their search for a solution to the Middle East problem. Some of these Arab parties base their solution on the fact that Resolutions 242 and 338 are the only bases for the solution so long as all parties to the conflict, with the exception of the PLO, recognize these resolutions. These Arab parties are willing to sacrifice Palestinian rights if the U.S.-Israeli axis abandons its call for reciprocal diplomatic representation and normalization of relations. They also base their solution on the possibility of ultimately accepting something less than an international conference within a formula ranging between a unified Arab delegation and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

With respect to the compromise solution that some are advocating, it consists of the theory that the region will be under U.S. hegemony for a long time to come and that there is no hope in resisting this hegemony. The advocates of this theory seek a compromise solution, meeting the U.S. proposals halfway, a formula safeguarding some national rights and part of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These forces view the Amman agreement as being a compromise solution.

The direct results of engagement in the whirlpool of these delusions have led to grave concessions on the PLO's national program, on the PLO's independent representative role, and on the Palestinian people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state in favor of Jordan as a current partner and a future alternative. Even the formula of the "Amman agreement," whose essence is "land in return for peace" — a formula that was seen by the United States as a great step toward complete cancellation of the PLO's national and representative role — has faced a real dilemma that culminated in halting joint coordination between Jordan and the PLO after the PLO leadership rejected the eight conditions set by Richard Murphy at the beginning of 1986, conditions that eventually aim to remove the PLO from the conflict and turn the conflict into one over borders between the enemy "state" and neighboring Arab states.

Hence, we are facing four plans to solve the Middle East problem and the Palestine question. Local, Arab, and international forces stand behind each of these plans in accordance with their interests. The only nationalist plan among these plans is the one based on the phased national program of the revolution, the people, and the PLO, a program that collides with imperialist-Zionist solutions. The other three plans call for capitulation to the fait accompli represented by the occupation and resulting from the continued U.S. rejection of the PLO's independent representative role and also of the Palestinian people's independent national rights.

With regard to the other issues raised at the beginning of this chapter, I would like to say the policy of our front has never been based on prompting our people to relax while awaiting a happy ending from abroad. The phased program of the PLO and the [Palestinian] people, which the DFLP had the honor to formulate, is primarily based on specifying the militant tasks for our people's various groups inside and outside the occupied territory in accordance with the different political, economic, and social circumstances of these groups.

Through their tangible experience, our people's masses have learned that their militant programs do not offer them promises about making a decisive change in the balance of power with only one strike. They have also learned taht change takes place by inflicting cumulative, partial defeats on the enemy. Such partial defeats will necessarily provide the possibility of forcing concessions on the enemies and also the possibility of forcing them to retreat and recognize our people's rights and phased demands, even before complete defeat is inflicted on the enemies.

The optimism initiated by national struggle is not linked to policies that will deny the minimum level of our people's national rights. This optimism is not linked to a belief that U.S. policy can provide a realistic national solution to the people's cause. This optimism is not linked to those who seek compromises, such as the Amman agreement, that meet in the middle of the road with the U.S. proposals. Nor is this optimism linked with proposals of pan-Arab ideology axes — proposals that, out of narrow regional interests, obliterate the PLO's independent, special role.

Nobody denies the difficult situation being experienced by the Palestinian national movement. A considerable portion of these difficulties stem from policies of searching for solutions outside the framework of the revolution's phased program and from policies adopted by extremist and other forces.

A sound, correct political movement is one that takes place on the basis of and within the framework of a national program. This completely conflicts with the desperate attempts to find a political settlement under demagogic headlines such as "time is not in our favor" and "what is important is that the land must return as an Arab land, and it is not important to whom this land returns."

PLO Officials Arrive in Tripoli for Talks
LD161647 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Mar (JANA) — Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; Brother 'Arbi 'Awwad, secretary general of the temporary command of the Palestinian Communist Party; Brother 'Atif Abu Bakr, the official spokesman of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah movement; and Brother 'Abd al-Rahman Mullah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, arrived in Tripoli yesterday to attend meetings of the progressive Palestinian nationalist factions.

In statements to JANA, they praised the firm and fundamental positions of the great Al-Fatih revolution on the Palestinian issue and on all reactionary and imperialist schemes in the Arab nation. They also praised its tireless endeavor for the unity of all Palestinian factions.

They emphasized that they came to the great Al-Fatih land to hold dialogue and consultations about ways of meeting the challenge to the Palestinian cause due to the reactionary Zionist and imperialist schemes for harming the Palestinian people's struggle.

They expressed their hope that this meeting will, under the patronage of the great Al-Fatih revolution, improve the position of the Palestinian nationalist forces and consolidate unity between the progressive forces; and that this meeting will be an impetus to rapprochement between the nationalist factions wanting to correct the path of the Palestinian revolution, its unity, and the unity of its struggle in the face of the Zionist enemy.

PLO Executive Committee Meets in Tunis
JN171919 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] A Palestinian source yesterday mentioned that the PLO Executive Committee has expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the dialogue among Palestinian factions to achieve reconciliation. The Executive Committee recommended that efforts be exerted to convene an expanded meeting of all Palestinian factions.

The PLO Executive Committee, which held a meeting in the Tunisian capital under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], decided to embark on contacts with Arab countries and friendly forces to discuss all aspects of the statement issued recently by the EC Council of Ministers in Brussels supporting an international conference for peace in the Middle East. The same source said this issue was the major topic of the talks Abu 'Ammar held with Soviet Ambassador at Large Mikhail Sytenko.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the measures taken by the Arab good offices committee to guarantee the arrival of food and medical supplies for the Palestinians besieged by the Amal Movement for several months.

PLO Official: No Plans To Scrap Amman Agreement
JN171729 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has denied reports that the next PNC session may scrap the Amman agreement. Milhim told the London-based Arabic-language newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that the PLO Executive Committee has yet to discuss a date and place for the PNC meeting. Current discussions among Palestinian factions are meant to bring their viewpoints closer together, he added.

The PLO official dismissed reports that the PNC will convene in Algiers in April, adding that no agenda has been prepared yet.

'Arafat Discusses Mideast With USSR Envoy
LD172100 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia. During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the situation in Palestine, the Arab world, and the international arena, particularly the development of the situation inside the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The brother leader, Abu 'Ammar, conveyed a verbal message for the Soviet leadership related to the latest developments in the region.

'Arafat Speaks on 'Conspiracy' Against Camps
JN171809 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, visited the Abna' Byat al-Sumud school in Tunis last night. He talked to the students in detail and described the developments in the Lebanese arena. He said: There is a great conspiracy against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon through which Israel, with the Amal Movement in Sidon and Tyre and, regrettably, with a renegade Arab regime and the Amal Movement in Beirut, want to occupy these camps. They want the Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, Al Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulway, and Al-Rashidiyah camps. The battle has been going on for 5 months and 3 weeks. They have not managed to capture these camps, which have continued to hold fast and fight until now.

The brother commander in chief added: This battle against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon is the longest battle and the longest siege in history. I left some of the heroes in Sabra and Shatila when they were cubs, and now they are big officers fighting Israel and the Amal Movement and those supporting it. I call them the new generals.

The brother commander in chief pointed out that as they failed to defeat them militarily, the enemies are trying to control them

and defeat them by starving them with the food and medical supply siege that has been imposed on them for 5 months and 3 weeks by the Amal Movement gangs and the forces of the renegade Arab regime supporting them. However, we are using every method to bring all the food and medical supplies we can into the camps, though with great difficulty. The heroic will of those new generals cannot be confronted. The fighting continues. The battle now is between two wills: a will that surrendered to the Zionist enemy and became a tool collaborating with him and the will of the Arab nation and the Palestinian fighter defending his existence and independent decisionmaking. Despite his difficult circumstances, this fighter continues to hold fast and fight. He is defending these camps against the longest siege in history.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that the spiteful triangle's constant aim is to capture these steadfast camps. This revolution is gigantic and nobody can defeat it. It is the revolution of the new generals in the Palestinian revolution who are still raising this banner in defense of these steadfast fortresses — the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Arab League Session Postponed to 31 March

LD171536 Algiers APS in Arabic 1425 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, 17 March — It has been learned from sources close to the Arab League Secretariat that the Arab League session opening on the 23 March has been postponed to 31 March. The meeting will be held in Tunis at the level of permanent representatives.

The Arab foreign ministers will begin their meetings on 1 April. The sources said the postponement comes at the request of Saudi Arabia, which will chair the Arab League up to September.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives UK's Lord Trefgarne in Manama

JN171141 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 17 Mar (WAKH) — This morning His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, received Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense support, who is currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations, ways to enhance them, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahraini Defense Force, and Francis Trew, British ambassador to Bahrain.

The British minister arrived in Manama yesterday on a 2-day visit to Bahrain which falls within the framework of a tour of some regional countries.

Trefgarne Departs 17 Mar

JN171624 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, March 17 (GNA) — British Minister of State for Defence Procurement Lord Trefgarne left Manama this evening at the end of a 2-day official visit to the Island.

During his stay, the British minister held talks with Bahraini top officials on military cooperation between Bahrain and Britain.

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad on Possible Return, USSR

JN170951 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Mar 87 pp 20, 21

[Interview with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Sanaa by Makram Muhammad Ahmad — date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted in which 'Ali Nasir Muhammad recalls days of revolution and reviews 13 January incidents that led to split]

[Ahmad] One year has passed since the 13 January 1986 incidents and you have not returned to Aden as you said you would. The evacuees have not returned either. Some people point to this as an indication that you have lost credibility.

[Muhammad] I have heard and read this often, but let me ask you about the meaning of credibility. We have tried through many intermediaries over the past year to convince the rulers in Aden to sit at the negotiating table with us. All our efforts have been met with obstinate refusal. During the few times they consented to dialogue, they were responsibile for the deadlock we reached. Who has lost credibility with the people: we or they? We have insisted on a political solution not out of weakness, but because we want to spare the nation further tribulation. Have we thus lost credibility? I am positive it is the ruling group in Aden that has lost credibility because despite the fact that a full year has passed since the January incidents, they have not managed to restore normalcy to the country, which is still in a state of crisis. The ruling group is using repression and a witch-hunt to tighten its grip on the country.

[Ahmad] But Aden insists that normalization is afoot in the country.

[Muhammad] It is a lame foot; if you go to Aden you will see for yourself the hollowness of their claims. The country has seen repression, oppression, a witch-hunt, sackings, arrests, mock trials, and the physical elimination of opponents over the past year. So what kind of normalization is that?

[Ahmad] This is a matter of opinion. I have not heard the other side of the story. Don't you believe the time factor is working against you?

[Muhammad] I do not believe time is on the side of the ruling group in Aden; the split is just too wide and serious, and it has affected all party and state cadres. National unity is inconceivable against this kind of background. With acts of repression and thousands under detention, I do not believe time is on the side of the ruling group in Aden. With the refusal of the evacuees to return home under the so-called general amnesty law, which is devoid of any safeguards, I do not believe time is on the side of the ruling group in Aden. Add to that the deteriorating economic situation, a salient feature of the current crisis, and you have a ready answer to your question.

The economic crisis manifests itself in a number of vital economic facilities lying idle: The Aden refinery is devastated; the exchange rate of the country's currency, "the dinar," is low; expatriate remittances, which once accounted for much of the country's foreign currency sources, have dried up; there was been a sharp rise in the country's trade deficit; imports have been severely restricted leading to acute shortages in basic foodstuffs; and joblessness is steadily on the increase. I am positive that the time factor does not favor the ruling group in Aden. They may be in agreement now but their harmony is temporary; it will prove short-lived and erupt into violent struggle because they lack homogeneity and a common purpose, and because on the whole the existing alliances are built on ethnic lines.

[Ahmad] Let me be more frank with you. It has been said the USSR, which is eager to maintain relations with Aden, believes your presence in Sanaa or Addis Ababa resembles a mine about to explode. It has also been said the USSR believes Moscow is perhaps the best place for you to reside at present. Moroever, it has been said the dialogue between you and Moscow ceased 4 months ago. What is the USSR's stand on the Aden incidents, and what is the nature of your relations with the USSR at present?

[Muhammad] I believe my stay in Addis Ababa or Sanaa is up to the two capitals. I would like to remind you of a statement published by *Al-Musawwar* in which Ethiopian President Haile Mariam denied this stand and declared that 'Ali Nasir can stay in Addis Ababa if he so wishes, and I beleive President 'Ali

Abdallah Salih has the same view. I believe the roles of Sanaa and Addis Ababa are confined to mediation efforts to achieve national accord. We do not ask more than this of the two friendly capitals. From the start, the Ethiopian Government sought through numerous contacts to resolve the crisis through peaceful means. However, the efforts of the Ethiopian friends were met with Aden's rejection. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is currently seeking the same objective with Kuwait's assistance. You ask me about the USSR's stand. To be fair, the USSR expressed deep regret over what happened from the start. During the 27th CPSU Congress, the USSR expressed its stand more clearly when it called for unifying all efforts to achieve a comprehensive national accord in our country. We appreciate this stand and look forward to a more positive role to achieve a political settlement that would serve security and stability in the region. You ask me if the dialogue with Moscow is continuing. I say yes, it is continuing.

[Ahmad] It has also been said there is some kind of agreement between Aden and Moscow regarding the return of evacuees, with the exception of a list of 48 people headed by 'Ali Nasir and a number of his ranking proponents.

[Muhammad] Moscow has nothing to do with this. This is what Aden requested during the last dialogue in Sanaa. However, everyone refuses to return because the Aden general amnesty contained many conditions that invalidate the amnesty even for those who expressed opinions on this dispute, which became a massive rift among the party and government members. My feeling is that the ruling clique in Aden is procrastinating regarding the return of these people. In fact, it does not wish this large number to return because their return would alter the balance of power against the Aden ruling clique, especially if the settlement contains a joint pledge to work to achieve national accord. I believe the decision to grant amnesty is continuing to lose credibility with the continuation of formal trials, prosecutions, and campaigns of arrests, and the continuing flow of refugees. Thus, we first demand a number of measures to restore confidence and show goodwill.

[Ahmad] What will be your future plans if Aden continues to reject dialogue?

[Muhammad] It would be difficult to say to people what I intend to do. However, I can affirm that it would be impossible for things to continue as they are now. I can also affirm that our insistence on dialogue does not stem from weakness or capitulation but from our desire to spare the people further pains. We have sufficient potential to enable us to achieve our struggle plan for national salvation.

Soviet Fishing Official Departs Aden 16 March

EA172039 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet Ministry of the Fish Industry led by Comrade Nikolay Lysenko, Soviet deputy minister of the fish industry, left Aden this evening following a week in Democratic Yemen during which they participated in the 13th meeting of the Yemeni-Soviet Joint Marine Fisheries Committee from 9 to 15 March.

In a press statement to ANA, Comrade Nikolay Lysenko described the visit as successful. He said: We have laid a strong foundation for cooperation in the sphere of fish supplies, which has been developed by stages since 1969. He added that guidelines had been set for a study of the fish reserves in Democratic Yemen's territorial waters, the exploitation of sources, and the laying of structural foundation in the fisheries sector until the year 2000. Implementation of Soviet-aided projects would be expedited. These included the fishport, workshop, the Mukalla fish canning plant, and aiding the operations of Democratic Yemen's fishing fleet. Comrade Lysenko identified a number of areas in which work would continue this year and said they had been dealt with. They included the activation of the Yemeni-Soviet mission, aid for cadre training and research, aid for the development of fisheries cooperatives in Hadramawt Governorate and the development fisheries, and the initiation of primary fisheries studies in the Island of Socotra.

Present at the airport to bid him farewell were Brother Salim Muhammad Jubran, Central Committee member and minister of fisheries, several ministry officials, and Comrade Albert Rachkov, Soviet ambassador to Aden.

Prime Minister Yasim Sa'id Nu'man Visits PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit by Prime Minister Dr Yasim Sa'id Nu'man to the People's Republic of China, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 17 March China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

SAUDI ARABIA

Crown Prince Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

LD171455 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] At the royal court this afternoon, Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz received Muhammad Bashir al-Mughayribi, personal envoy of Libyan President [title as heard] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who conveyed a verbal message for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, adviser to the court of the crown prince, and by Maulud Ramadhan, Libyan charge d'affaires in the Kingdom.

ROK Defense Official Discusses Cooperation

LD171507 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1358 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, chief of the general staff, conferred at his office at the [Defense] Ministry today with Hui To-pak, chief of staff of the Korean Army, and the delegation accompanying him. [Gen Hui] also conferred today with Staff Lieutenant General Yusuf al-Rashid at the latter's office at the [Defense] Ministry and discussed with him increasing military cooperation between the Kingdom and [South] Korea. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Views Elections, Sectarian Strife
NC171856 Cairo MENA in English 1830 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Al-Minya, March 17 — (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak urged the people today to look at the elections in an objective way and vote for the candidate who would maintain in the high interests of the people.

The citizens are duty-bound to confer with their deputies and bring them to account for the issues they raise and discuss at the parliament, the president noted. It is not merely a matter of competition, since no single party can respond to the wishes of all its members to run for a seat in the elections, but the right target is to work hard and maintain ethics and principles during election campaigning, he pointed out.

President Mubarak's remarks came at a meeting today with the popular, executive and partisan leaderships of Al-Minya Governorate, following the inauguration of the new bridge there.

At the beginning, the president congratulated the people of Al-Minya on the new bridge and said it is an example of the huge achievements of the five-year plan of overall development, all implemented in their due time.

Despite the importance of the elections issue, the true hard and painstaking action is rather the responsibility for affording a stable life for every citizen, President Mubarak said. [sentence as received]

He emphasized that at the time when some political powers attempt to cast doubts or use agitation and sensation during the election season, as well as what some people raise about the presence of radioactive commodities, the government is completely keen on protecting the health of each and every citizen.

Moreover, Egypt is even more stringent in this respect than any other state as regards examining all foodstuffs since the accident of the Soviet reactor in Chernobyl, the president said.

It is quite self-evident that the government pursues all these measures to protect our folks and children, yet some people use the method of casting doubts and agitation, the president regretted.

"Where have those people been when the Chernobyl blast took place and why haven't we heard anything from them?" he wondered.

The people are well aware that the government has been very strict since the beginning and can never accept a situation in which a commodity that would harm one single Egyptian would be admitted into the country, President Mubarak again underlined.

President Mubarak said the loans Egypt obtained during the last five years were used in construction and establishing an infrastructure that had to be reformed quite a long time ago. The loans allocated for food were used to import wheat of which an amount worth 1.3 billion dollars was consumed, he said.

Parts of the loans were allocated for the provision of production requirements, necessary for Egyptian factories, he added. "Whoever tackles this topic must know that the loans are obtained for the sake of development and the people. The more we increase production, the more we are able to overcome our economic problems," he noted.

President Mubarak commented on some people's exploitation of electioneering to talk about the Egyptian debts and loans, announcing slogans that do not respond to facts, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said.

The facts are well-known and have been made public, he said, and according to them, all the loans obtained by Egypt during the five-year plan which concludes next July, amounting to 37 billion Egyptian pounds have all been utilised in the implementation of the plan's agricultural and industrial development projects.

The foreign component of the funds used in financing such giant projects as creation of factories, telephone networks, roads, power stations, bridges and hospitals, has amounted to ten billion pounds, he added.

Referring to the attempts that accompanied the People's Assembly elections compaigns to rouse sectarian strife, President Mubarak noted that it is the responsibility of every Egyptian to stand against those who are behind the strife among the citizens of the one country.

He reiterated that the attempt to rouse the strife is alien to the Egyptian community. "The Egyptians have lived for a long time as brothers with no discrimination whatsoever between Muslims and Christians. We are all Egyptians living together in love and peace," he added.

The president said that giving the chance to any group to foment sectarian conflicts and sow the seeds of hatred and hostility between Muslims and Christians only aims at destroying the whole community.

President Mubarak called on every Egyptian to be firm, rational and conscientious in dealing with the sectarian strife. Instigators who spread rumours to destabilize Egypt. [sentence as received] "Every citizen knows that his responsibility is to stand firm in the face of any attempts aimed at inciting religious sects against each other," he added.

President Mubarak called on all parties to work for the best interests of Egypt away from any partisan selfishness, as they deal with issues touching on the higher interests and unity of Egypt. He said that competition must exclude the frustration of the people, exploiting their sufferings or falsifying the facts.

Democracy and freedom are "facts that are felt by every Egyptian citizen." The people have become able to distinguish intuitively between facts and falsifications aimed at casting doubts on the government, he said.

Mubarak reiterated that the People's Assembly must be a real parliament that works for the well-being of the people and

shoulder the responsibilities assigned to it by the people, bearing in mind the higher interests of Egypt above anything else, Al-Sharif said.

Asked on the chances given the National Democratic Party (NDP) lists, President Mubarak said the lists include youth elements and fresh figures running for the elections for the first time. The lists are made in such a proportion that would ensure continuity among generations, old, middle and young, which is the nature of evolution, the president said.

Dwelling on the Egyptian economic situation, President Mubarak said that in spite of all the difficulties, the Egyptian economy has proved to the degree of certainty that it is capable of fulfilling Egypt's requirements, whether for developments, production facilities, providing commodities and services, or honouring the instalments of foreign debts in due time.

There are talks under way between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund, President Mubarak indicated, making it clear that the IMF has not imposed on Egypt any conditions that are not commensurate with our potentialities.

In his statement following the meeting, Safwat al-Sharif also highlighted the president's statement that reaching understanding with the IMF would allow the Egyptian economy a greater ability, as well as the rescheduling of the mature instalments of the loans.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak, replying to a question about the government's programme for youth, said everything being achieved on the soil of Egypt in all domains is for the youth, adding that the five-year plan provides 400,000 work opportunities yearly, which are mainly for young people.

President Mubarak, replying to a question on the Armed Forces, said armament and building of the Armed Forces are an essential target to ensure that they would protect Egyptian territories, honor and dignity, and also protect the Egyptian will and decision-making.

On the five-year development plan projects, President Mubarak referred to the vertical and horizontal expansion in the field of agriculture, the increase of agricultural crops, the introduction of advanced technology and the use of agricultural machinery.

Dealing with foreign issues, President Mubarak said Egypt is very keen on standing by the sister Arab countries, achieving Arab solidarity and maintaining [words indistinct]. Egypt does not allow any foreign intervention in the affairs of any Arab country, he noted.

The president also dealt with the outcome of talks and meetings that took place between Arab leaders at the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait. He referred, in this respect, to the Egyptian stand at the summit and its keenness on bringing the summit conference to success. While paying tribute to Kuwait for the efforts it made to bring the conference to success, he referred to the Syrian stand, which tried to divert the summit from attaining its targets.

Answering a question about the Iraq-Iran war, President Mubarak explained Egypt's stand which lies in calling on all parties to stop the blood spilling and endeavour for achieving peace to spare the Moslem blood in the two nations.

Then, President Mubarak dealt with Syria's assistance to Iran in spite of [words indistinct].

Touching on the Lebanese situation, the President denounced the Syrian role [words indistinct] to kill Palestinian women and children and strike at the Palestinian camps, violating all Arab and Islamic principles.

Asked about the Libyan military *C-130* plane's landing in Egypt, the president explained that this was at the request of its two airmen and of their own accord. The Libyan pilot and co-pilot themselves planned the defection to Egypt, after covering 1200 [words indistinct], President Mubarak said, pointing out that the Al-Kufrah Airport in Libya has all the time been in contact with them and has been knowing their destination.

In his statement, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak talked about African relations, saying that the participation of a number of African leaders in the recent mini-OAU summit in Egypt reflects their appreciation of its role and African belonging.

Dealing with Egypt's foreign relations, President Mubarak said Egypt is dealing with (others) on an equal footing, maintaining its dignity and never accepting the establishment of foreign bases on its soil, pointing out that Egypt and the United States are cooperating in various fields. Egypt has also close ties with the European states, he added.

The meeting was attended by a number of prominent Muslim and Christian religious dignitaries, who stood up clapping their hands to stress the national unity of the sons of the Egyptian people. Some university professors and college deans were also present.

AL-ANBA' Interviews Muslim Brotherhood Official

JN171619 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Mar 87 pp 24, 25

[Interview with Hamid Abu al-Nasr, comptroller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, by *Al-Anba'* correspondent Sami al-Samkuri in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Samkuri] The Muslim Brotherhood allied itself with the Labor and Liberal parties. Why? What were the reasons that triggered this?

[Abu al-Nasr] We welcomed the idea of elections by forming alliances to pave our way to parliament because we were not allowed to form a party or a body. Earlier we established relations with the Al-Wafd Party to achieve this goal. At the same time, we held contacts with the Labor and Liberal Parties to form a front comprising the Muslim Brotherhood, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party. We agreed to join the party which gave us 40 percent of the votes and served the interests of the Muslim

Brotherhood. This gave us a great opportunity to nominate outstanding elements. Our relations with the Al-Wafd Party are continuing. They are not marred by any dispute.

[Al-Samkuri] Then why was the alliance between you and the Al-Wafd Party dissolved?

[Abu al-Nasr] Al-Wafd was the one that decided not to join fronts or alliances.

[Al-Samkuri] The Labor Party platform calls for socialism, while the Liberal Party supports capitalism. Do you not see a contradiction between this front and the Islamic line?

[Abu al-Nasr] We do not have common views with the other parties. The idea to ally ourselves with the other parties is just intended to find a means through which we can enter parliament as we are not allowed to take part in elections on our own. We were not recognized as a party or a body. Every side has to be committed to its principles and views and respect others' views.

[Al-Samkuri] What if you were asked to enter the election on the Grouping's ticket?

[Abu al-Nasr] We differ with the Grouping Party on doctrine. The philosphy of the party is based on Marxism which denies God's existence and religions. It is impossible to ally ourselves with the Grouping Party even if this facilitated entering the elections.

[Al-Samkuri] Has there been no flirtation between you and the NDP for you to join the party's ticket?

[Abu al-Nasr] The NDP is a stumbling block to the return of the Muslim Brotherhood to the political arena. It refuses to end this situation. When the parliament was in session, it was necessary to have a resolution passed calling for the restoration of freedom to the Muslim Brotherhood. But this party insists on preventing us from entering the political arena. We have no differences with any party. We are just trying to make our views reach public opinion. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] Assuming the Muslim Brotherhood had the chance to form a government in Egypt, what would the priorities of the government be on domestic issues?

[Abu al-Nasr] First of all, teaching the people about Islam. We would make Islam the general prevailing atmosphere in society. This would apply to television programs, cultural subjects, the curricula in schools and universities, and preaching. All this would be based on Islam to enable us to implement Islamic law and establish the Islamic state. This does not mean that the current government is not an Islamic one. The goal is to rule through the principles of Islamic law while living in an Islamic state. We do not call anyone who believes in God an infidel.

[Al-Samkuri] How do you view the Islamic government?

[Abu al-Nasr] By the implementation of Islamic law and the establishment of social justice stemming from Islamic teachings, not from Western or Eastern principles, as Islam preceded all these philosophies and beat East and West. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samkuri] Is the Muslim Brotherhood responsible for the recent proliferation of Islamic groups after it left the arena?

[Abu al-Nasr] The Islamic groups were formed during our time in prison. The youths took the initiative owing to the lack of guidance or a group that could guide their movement. The Islamic groups are actually a movement.

We welcome all the Islamic movements, but we differ with the youthful members of these groups who demand changes by force. This contravenes the policy of the Muslim Brotherhood which abides by wise methods. "Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching." [Koranic verse]

We share views with the youths on combating the "videos" which are shaking up society. We call on the government to strictly censor pornographic films which excite youths, corrupt society, and undermine the faith of the Muslim. People must be well-behaved. Art, in general, is one of the wonders of God's creation. But it has been used as a means to sabotage youth. We demand a correction of this issue. We do not hate art but rather like it.

[Al-Samkuri] You said the Islamic groups were formed while you were in prison, but why did you not contain these groups and guide them on the correct Islamic path after you were released from prison?

[Abu al-Nasr] We do not have the means. We were not even recognized. Where could I gather them together? If I met one of their groups I would be subject to legal action. We have no newspaper or magazine through which I could hold a dialogue with these groups. [passage omitted]

Ghali Denies Alliance Sought With Sudan, Ethiopia

JN171513 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (WAKH) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has denied reports that Egypt is trying to establish an axis or alliance with Sudan and Ethiopia.

In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Cairo today, Ghali said: We in Egypt are interested in good relations and cooperation between Ethiopia on the one hand and Somalia and Sudan on the other. This is an issue which is in complete harmony with OAU and UN principles and objectives.

Dr Butrus Ghali added: If Egyptian-Sudanese-Ethiopian cooperation is achieved this will give momentum to economic development and stability in the three countries and will further stability and development in Africa in general.

Answering a question about Eritrea, Butrus Ghali said: The Eritrean problem is an internal issue tied up with Ethiopia's legitimacy, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Ethiopian Government should try to find a suitable solution which takes the Eritreans' social and economic interests into consideration.

Economic Delegation Departs for USSR, Romania

NC172203 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — An Egyptian economic delegation led by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for Moscow this evening on a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union. During his stay, the minister of economy will sign a 5-year long-term trade agreement with the USSR.

The talks which members of the Egyptian delegation are scheduled to hold with Soviet officials will focus on bilateral relations and amending the current trade protocol to increase the volume of trade. The discussion will also deal with a number of pending issues, including Egypt's indebtedness to the Soviet Union and the exchange rate of the accounting [al-hisabi] sterling pound in an effort to encourage Egyptian exports to the USSR.

Following his visit to the Soviet Union, Dr Yusri Mustafa will travel to Bucharest, Romania. During this visit, he will sign a 5-year long-term trade agreement to organize the transactions undertaken between Egypt and Romania.

Dr Yusri Mustafa and his accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

Minister of State Returns From Gulf Tour

NC171424 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — 'Adli 'Abd al-Shahid, minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, returned to Cairo this afternoon after his Gulf tour.

He said he is bringing messages to President Husni Mubarak from the leaders of the countries he visited; namely, the Sultanate of Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,606 Details 16-17 Mar Fighting

JN171722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,606 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A free and honorable life has been achieved for our people and our Iraq will always be proud, thanks to the determination of its brave men. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today.

1. Every day, the heroic III Army Corps reaps the enemy heads and destroys the enemy equipment, weapons, and vehicles. In the III Army Corps sector, our units intensified their concentrated fire at the Khomeyniite positions and the enemy engineering efforts.

They destroyed a number of enemy infantry positions and killed their occupants, destroyed a shovel [preceding word in English], damaged two other shovels, destroyed one vehicle and killed its occupants, destroyed one 60-mm mortar and killed its crew, destroyed several ammunition dumps and set enemy positions ablaze, and seized a quantity of serviceable weapons.

2. To inflict further heavy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the aggressors, the brave VII Army Corps soldiers directed concentrated fire at the scoundrels' positions. They destroyed a number of gun emplacements and killed their crews, destroyed a number of infantry positions and killed the scoundrels in them, halted enemy engineering efforts and killed five enemy personnel, and set a number of enemy positions on fire.

3. An enemy group estimated at 30 persons attempted to approach the positions of the heroic I Army Corps in the northern sector. Our men directed their fire at the enemy group and killed or wounded a number of them while the rest of them fled.

4. The evil Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery. As a result, several houses, civilian vehicles, and civilian property were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 March 1987

Two Maritime Targets Hit

JN181020 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 18 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To prevent the tyrant Iranian rulers from continuing their injustice, and to deprive them of their oil resources, which they use for their evil purposes of carrying out aggression against our country, the planes of our gigantic Air Force at 2230 [1930 GMT on 17 March] and at 0950 today carried out two successful raids on two maritime targets near the Iranian coast. The first target is big, and the second is very big. Our planes dealt the two targets accurate and effective blows and returned safely to the homeland. Praise be to God.

[Dated] 18 March 1987

Saddam Husayn Inspects War Production Factories

JN171529 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has inspected an industrial installation affiliated with war production. During the visit, President Saddam Husayn, accompanied by Heavy Industry Minister Subhi Yasin, was acquainted with the production of the factories.

The director general of the site explained in detail to his excellency the quality and amount of production, as well as the great qualitative and quantitative developments in the various production lines to support the combat capabilities of the Iraqi Armed Forces, which inflict bitter defeats on the Iranian forces' remnants every day.

The president praised the efforts of the supervisors and workers, who give an example of sacrifice in the service of our beloved homeland and our glorious Arab nation.

Dudin on Jerusalem Electric Concession, Gaza Port

JN171341 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Interview with Marwan Dudin, Jordanian minister of occupied territory affairs, by Fu'ad Na'im, radio correspondent in Amman; live or recorded]

[Text] [Na'im] Mr Minister, the Israeli Government decided a few days ago not to renew Jerusalem Electric Company's concession. What is the Jordanian stand on the decision, and how will Amman deal with it?

[Dudin] In my view what we have heard so far is no more than press reports. We have not yet heard of a decision by the Israeli Government on the matter. In any case, I have already talked with you on the matter, on Radio Monte Carlo in particular. I said the Jordanian Government has a clear and well-defined stand toward Jerusalem Electric and on supporting the company. However, we reserved extending our support for the company until the company's administration and the occupation authorities discuss the concession and its extension for a further 20 years. The concession expires at the end of 1987. We expected the illegal authorities to seek as usual to stifle a great, legal, Jerusalemite, Palestinian, Arab body that was established prior to the British Mandate and toward the end of the Ottoman era. That body had survived, and all the powers that controlled Jerusalem preserved and maintained the concession. Amman's stand toward Jerusalem Electric is to extend to it the fullest possible support. Perhaps the company's administration, our brothers, and our people in Jerusalem and in the West Bank in general can now see some of the wisdom in the [Jordanian] Government's stand in not being hasty in paying a considerable sum of money. We did not renege on our pledge to support the company when we said we must know when the company's concession will end, particularly as it is scheduled to expire at the end of 1987.

We are opposed to such a decision, if it has been made. We have heard from the various media that the concession may be cancelled, and we put on record our condemnation and rejection of such an arbitrary Israeli action which is an extension of the arbitrariness of the occupation authorities in general. We do not forget that the issue is not only that of Jerusalem Electric but of the whole of Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights which have been under the yoke of an oppressive occupation for the past 20 years. Many problems will end with the end of such an occupation, including the marginal problem of the concession of a Jerusalemite Arab company, Jerusalem Electric.

[Na'im] Mr Minister, another question. A Gazan businessman said yesterday that a European country, Sweden, is prepared to finance the construction of a commercial port in Gaza. Is Jordan prepared to contribute toward the construction of such a port? Was the project proposed within the framework of the Jordanian development plan for the occupied territory?

[Dudin] With regard to the latter part of the question, the matter was never proposed. Our relationship with the charitable organization for the citizens of the Gaza Strip represented by [former Gaza Mayor] Rashad al-Shawwa has so far been on cooperation with us on issues which the charity believes are more pressing for the people's daily life and for safeguarding their dignity and health in the Gaza Strip which is densely populated and whose resources are limited, and we support the charity in this.

I have heard what the businessman Brother 'Isam al-Shawwa had said in that regard. I can only say the Jordanian Government can only support the wishes of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, represented by the commercial sector, in [words indistinct] be it a port such as that mentioned by Rashad al-Shawwa in an interview, a small and simple port that handles the transport of citrus fruit directly via Gaza itself, or a more complex and consequently, a costlier port. Definitely, when a competent side in the Gaza Strip submits to us through the charity an integrated proposal that requires study, we as a government will very gladly consider it and make the appropriate decision — based on our available resources. But if the expenses of such a project are very high and our contribution will be only a token one, then there is no objection if, as you have suggested, our kinfolk in the Gaza Strip obtain financing from friendly states.

Amman Radio Carries West Bank Program 17 March

JN172023 [Editorial Report]

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1215 GMT on 17 March carries a new 28-minute episode of the weekly program "The Occupied Homeland; News and Views." This week's episode begins with a 3-minute interview with Jordanian Health Minister Dr Zayd Hamzah after his return from Khartoum, where he attended the meeting of the Arab Health Council. Dr Hamzah talks about efforts to build a new hospital in Jerusalem. He says Jordan played a key role in a resolution issued by the Arab Health Council during its previous session in Casablanca, Morocco. He adds that a committee was formed in Jerusalem to follow up this resolution and points out that the resolution was also supported by the ICO summit conference in Kuwait.

Asked when construction of this hospital in Jerusalem will begin, the health minister says: It will begin immediately. A decision has been made to transfer funds to begin. This means that the first practical step has been taken. Our brothers in the Jerusalem committee can begin work now.

Next follows a 7-minute interview with Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, on the activities of his ministry in the West Bank and the reorganization of the Higher Awqaf Council in the West Bank. On the duties of the Higher Awqaf Council, Dr al-Khayyat says that after the Israeli occupation in 1967, it was decided to form a higher council for awqaf in the West Bank to supervise the Islamic places there and to coordinate with the Awqaf Ministry in Jordan.

On the Awqaf Ministry's role in "supporting the steadfastness" in the occupied Arab territories, Dr al-Khayyat says the ministry still supervises Islamic places, builds new mosques, and appoints preachers and mosque acolytes. He says there are several academic Islamic establishments financed and supervised by the ministry.

The radio then carries a report on the meetings of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee in Amman to discuss "topics related to the technical aspects of the restoration of the Dome of the Rock after the required funds for this work have been allocated by the Jordanian Government." Two participants in the committee's meeings were interviewed. Eng Hasan 'Abd al-Nabi, director general of architectural affairs on an Egyptian antiquities committee, gives the radio a 6-minute statement on the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. He begins by reviewing the history of the Dome of the Rock and its architectural design. He says restoration work will begin this summer according to schedule.

The radio carries a 3-minute interview on the same subject with Muhammad Shab'ah, adviser to the Moroccan minister of handicraft and social affairs, who is also participating in the meetings of the restoration committee. He says he came from Morocco accompanied by artisans to take part in the restoration work at the Dome of the Rock.

The program concludes with an 8-minute statement by Dr Salim Butrus Muqattash, director of agricultural guidance at the Ministry of Agriculture, on the agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza coming into the East Bank. Reviewing the quantities of agricultural produce imported from the West Bank and Gaza, Dr Muqattah says: Our imports of West Bank vegetables and citrus fruit in February amounted to 3,372 tons in addition to approximately 93,650 citrus saplings. Some 11,000 tons of almonds and 250 tons of bananas were also brought in from the West Bank. The quantity of fruit in general brought in from the West Bank amounts to approximately 3,685 tons. As for Gaza Strip citrus fruit, 6,986 tons of oranges, 680 tons of lemons, and 121 tons of grapefruit were brought into the East Bank.

Dr Muqattash then explains the measures for importing West Bank and Gaza agricultural produce. He says the Ministry of Agriculture prepares annual plans for importing agricultural produce based on seasonal and regional distribution.

He says certain types of fruits and vegetables are imported from specific West Bank and Gaza areas according to a schedule to guarantee fair distribution among farmers. For example, he says the period for allowing the entry of lemons from Janin, Tulkarm, and Qaqiliyah extends from 15 December to 30 June; from Nabulus and Jericho from 1 December to 31 May; and from Gaza from 1 December to 30 June.

Abducted Professors' Release Expected 'Very Soon'

NC180511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] REUTER cites Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian intelligence service in Lebanon, as having assured the wives of the four U.S. hostages who were recently kidnapped from the campus of the Beirut University College that their husbands would be released soon. In a statement after her meeting with Brig Gen Kan'an, Mrs Polhill said Kan'an had affirmed to her that her husband, as well as the three others, would be released very soon.

Kan'an Expresses 'Personal Concern'

NC180620 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0550 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] received a delegation from Beirut University College yesterday. Discussions during the meeting centered on the question of the four kidnapped teachers. Brig Gen Kan'an expressed his personal concern over this issue and for the freedom of educational institutions. He said he hoped the current efforts would lead to the teachers' release as soon as possible. Kan'an added: This issue is a basic national one, and now that the security plan has been well established we are able to devote our efforts to it.

French Hostage Execution Postponed 'One Week'

NC172126 Paris AFP in English 2119 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, March 17 (AFP) — The Organisation of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) on Tuesday announced a one week postponement of the execution of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, whom it has been holding since March 8, 1986.

"Delegations (from the French Government) must be sent during the week to provide the necessary clarifications which will either improve the situation or mean that blood flows", the ORJ said in a statement in Arabic, accompanied by a photograph of the television cameraman, sent to the Lebanese independent daily *Al-Nahar*.

The organisation said that it had decided to postpone the execution of Mr Normandin following an appeal earlier Tuesday by Shi'ite spiritual leader Shaykh Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah.

The ORJ, a clandestine Moslem extremist group, said on Saturday it would try and then execute Mr Normandin by Monday night if France failed to shift its position on dealings with terrorists and on French military ties with Iraq. The ORJ statement also threatened that new terror attacks would be carried out inside France if the French Government did not fulfill its demands.

"Given France's stubborn insistence on continuing its support for Iraq by supplying arms, we are resolved and determined to strike the hardest possible blows inside France itself, so that it pays a heavy price and so that blood does not flow in vain," it said.

Birri Announces Release of Saudi Diplomat

NC181145 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the affairs of the south and reconstruction, is currently holding a news conference in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon]. At the beginning of the news conference, Minister Birri announced the release of Saudi diplomat Bakr al-Damanhuri, who was kidnapped recently [on 12 January 1987] in West Beirut.

Brig Gen Kan'an also spoke at the conference, saying: After receiving a tip on Al-Damanhuri's whereabouts, the Amal Movement undertook measures to secure his safe release. I hope there will be such a happy ending for all the hostages. He also noted that he is seeking to further consolidate order in the national areas.

Rafiq al-Hariri [Saudi businessman of Lebanese origin], who also attended the conference, expressed his gratitude to [Syrian] President al-Asad for the pressure he exerted for Al-Damanhuri's release, and thanked Minister Birri and the Amal Movement for their efforts in securing his safe release.

LE MONDE Interviews Kan'an on Hostages, Security

PM170752 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Mar 87 p 5

[Interview with General Ghazi Kan'an, Syrian military commander in Beirut, by Francoise Chipaux in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpt] Beirut — [passage omitted] General Kan'an knows Beirut. "The problem," he said, "is that the Lebanese do not have equal rights and equal duties. They are distinguished from birth by their religion. What could be worse," he added, "than feeling you are a foreigner in your own country," referring to what he calls the discrimination between men and regions, some of which have been forgotten by the state. West Beirut is his third experience of "pacification," after Tripoli and Zahlah.

[Chipaux] Why did the Syrian troops enter West Beirut in force?

"It was a normal human reaction to bring help to a population in distress," Gen Kan'an said. In July 1986, the Syrian observers supported a peace plan aimed to back up the legal Lebanese forces who wanted to promote agreement. "At the beginning of the war between allies," he now says, "nobody in Syria contemplated intervention. But, on the 4th day of fighting, in view of the large number of militiamen, there were not enough of our soldiers to act as an effective buffer force. In view of the scale of the crisis the population was experiencing, I sent a report to my commander to say that, if we withdrew, Beirut and its population would burn. At the same time there was an appeal for aid from Muslim leaders. We therefore responded to it. It would have been unnatural for Syria not to intervene." But, Gen Kan'an stressed, the Syrian troops' entry in force into West Beirut must not be an end in itself: "It must help the Lebanese find a just settlement."

The main priority now, according to Gen Kan'an, who attends

all the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Damascus, is the plan for a political solution to the crisis. Only this, he said, will make it possible to extend the security plan to all regions of Lebanon, especially the southern suburb. What is preventing "agreement between President al-Jumayyil's plan and that of the Muslim leaders"? [quotemarks as published] "It is the question of government participation," the Syrian official said, "in other words, making the cabinet the center of political decision-making." This is an attack on the head of state's prerogatives.

The second point under discussion is "the abolition of confessionalism on which everybody agrees but according to different timetables." Gen Kan'an — and this is scarcely surprising — did not mention any timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian troops, which was forcefully demanded once again by the Christian militia on Tuesday. And questions on the future of Beirut's southern suburb irritate him. "I do not understand," he said, "why so much fuss is being made about this matter. There are militias everywhere in Lebanon. They exist in East Beirut (Christian militia — *Le Monde* editor's note), in the mountains (Druze militia — *Le Monde* editor's note), and in the suburb (Shi'ite militia — *Le Monde* editor's note). Syrian aid was requested for a specific area of fighting: West Beirut." Ignoring the statements made by the Sunni leaders and Druze leader Walid Junblatt, Gen Kan'an said that "in Damascus the Muslim leaders did not ask us to enter the southern suburb."

Sweeping aside questions on Syrian-Iranian relations, which might be affected by Syria's behavior toward Hizballah, Gen Kan'an said: "Nothing can undermine the settlement of the crisis. The Syrians are determined to do their duty." Gen Kan'an is not affected by the increasingly tough tone adopted by the ayatollahs in Tehran either. "The voices being raised against the Syrian initiative are merely jarring notes," he said. Even the arrival of the new Iranian ambassador, welcomed by thousands of fundamentalists, did not trouble the Olympian calm of Beirut's new master. "I did not follow him; it is not my business," he said with a smile.

With regard to the hostages' fate, Gen Kan'an had little to say. "If I had any good news about them, I would give it to you with pleasure," he said. There are no prospects. Syria has intervened to end this human tragedy. It is particularly concerned about the French hostages. It will continue to show this concern. The French Government knows that." With regard to the rumors about the three American lecturers and the Indian teacher who are allegedly in Syrian hands, Gen Kan'an said these rumors are circulated by those who want to discredit his country.

With regard to the Palestinians, whose camps in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah are still being besieged by the Amal Shi'ite militia, Gen Kan'an said: "The withdrawal of the militia from around the camps in Beirut will only take place if the Palestinians withdraw from their positions east of Sidon. But," he continued, "the problem must also be settled in a comprehensive way, not just in Beirut, but in Sidon and Tyre." According to the Syrian official, the discussions on the fate of the Palestinian camps are the subject of negotiations connected with the Lebanese settlement, and it is being said in Beirut that Algeria might become more involved in securing a partial solution to the blockade on the camps.

However, one thing is certain: Gen Kan'an intends to establish order in West Beirut until a political agreement is reached. "The number of Syrian soldiers present" — between 7,000 and 13,000 according to sources — "is enough," he said, to await a solution, even if it takes months to come." Denying that he had "invited" foreigners to return to West Beirut — can you invite somebody to a country which is not your own...— Gen Kan'an simply said: "The state of security enables them to return." The big blocks of concrete that barred the entrances to some embassies have already been removed and many streets are open to traffic again. However, another street has been closed — the one which leads to Syrian headquarters.

Rejecting the title of governor of West Beirut, Gen Kan'an prefers that of coordinator, stressing the importance of Lebanese notables and officials who must play their role. He is a "coordinator" who will not easily be distracted from his mission.

Syrians Raid Homes in North; 2 Reported Dead

NC181141 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] According to security reports from 'Akkar, Syrian intelligence men continue to raid homes in the 'Akkar area, and particularly in the villages of Al-Shaykh Taba, Minyarah, and Al-Qantarah. Dozens of people have been detained so far. These reports say that Ramiz Hanna and a colleague of his from the Army died 2 hours after their release. It is reported that because of the storming operations, there has been an exodus of people northward.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Forces in W. Beirut

NC180918 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] In a telephone call to our radio, a spokesman for the Fityan 'Ali Forces of the Lebanese Liberation Front claimed responsibility for a machine gun attack on a Syrian occupation forces position in Hursh Qasqas in West Beirut last night. Two Syrian soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in the attack.

The spokesman threatened to continue the operations against the Syrian occupation forces, which entered Lebanon without permission and perpetrated the Al-Bastah massacre [of Hizballah members] on the orders of, as he put it, butcher Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon].

Syrians Reportedly Give Seized Weapons to Amal

NC171612 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Informed West Beirut sources told the Voice of Lebanon today that the Syrian forces are turning over the weapons and ammunition they have seized to the Amal Movement. Syrian Captain Humud has been charged with supervising the delivery of this confiscated ordnance. According to these sources, this Syrian action has caused resentment among various other political parties and organizations, particularly the PSP which had

called for the implementation of a just security plan and dealing with all parties in accordance with one criterion.

The sources also reported that Syrian intelligence personnel have joined the judicial police force. This force has the task of registering the models and license plate numbers of the vehicles that pass through the Museum-al-Barbir and Al-Hadath-al-Murayjah crossing points, as well as the responsibility for photographing the people who traverse these points.

It was reported this afternoon that members of the judicial police have discovered two ammunition crates containing 12 mortar rounds. The crates were found in the Al-Da'uq Building on Patriarchate Street [in West Beirut].

Amal Recaptures Zighdraya; Tension Prevails
NC171831 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] A state of tension currently prevails in eastern Sidon now that the Amal Movement has regained the Zighdraya township from Palestinian gunmen. Amal has reaffirmed its readiness to lift the military siege on the Palestinian camps if gunmen there withdraw to the positions they occupied prior to 24 October 1986.

Amal's New Command in South Assumes Duties
NC180632 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Al-Hajj 'Atif 'Awn, Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman and official in charge of the Organizational Council in the south, declared yesterday that he and the members of the new command [in the south] have taken over responsibility for organization in the south from the previous command. Members of the new command; Abu Jamal, in charge of the movement's security affairs in the south; and Abu 'Ali Rumani, deputy commander of military affairs, attended the ceremony.

LE MONDE Interviews Junblatt on Developments
NC171954 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Paris correspondent's dispatch — recorded]

[Text] *Le Monde* published on its frontpage today an interview with PSP leader Walid Junblatt, conducted in Al-Mukhtarah by journalist (Francoise Jipaud).

In the lengthy interview, Minister Junblatt (?listed) recent events in West Beirut, the subsequent entry of Syrian military forces into the city, and renewed negotiations in Damascus. Junblatt said with disgust: We have gone back to square one. This is a new stage in the Lebanese war. The working paper we are discussing in Damascus is the same one we have discussed a thousand times. We are waiting for the presidential deadlines [al-istihqaqat al-ri'asiyah], and we are striving for democratic political reforms. As for the economy, it cannot be touched. [amma al-iqtisad fala yumkin al-masas bihi]

Asked about the battle of West Beirut, Junblatt declared: It was not a defeat. I started the battle because we could not allow the systematic, physical liquidation of Communist Party cadres in southern Lebanon to continue. The fate of this party is similar to that of the Iranian Tudeh Communist Party and the Iranian liberals. When I was told Amal was besieging Communist Headquarters in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, I made a unilateral decision based on a principled stand. The Communists are our allies, and it is impossible for us to abandon them as they confront a form of Islamic obscurantism. Islam is not what is being exported to us from Persia. It is something else. No one can deny that I am a Muslim.

With regard to the Soviet role in the battle of West Beirut, Junblatt remarked: Allegations about their involvement in the decision to fight may have stemmed from my hosting the Communist Party's general congress in B'aqlin and from Karen Brutents', deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, presence at the congress. However, Brutents did not give me a green light; he told me: I understand you, but perhaps a little moderation is required.

Asked if he had been expecting Syrian intervention, Junblatt answered: Come what may, I had not expected that. The Syrians, however, were angry; they made threats; they believed that I and Yasir 'Arafat had hatched a plot. He added: Today they are calling us a strange name: 'Arafatist-Israelis. The Lebanese Communist Party is being accused of representing the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, in Lebanon. This is ridiculous and stupid, he added.

Junblatt added: Any peace established in West Beirut will remain fragile if there is no political plan. We hope the Syrian return will prove to be positive. The political facts of the Lebanese war, however, have not changed. Israel is present in Jazzin, 15 km from Al-Mukhtarah. The Americans, meanwhile, are waiting. Will Israel profit from such a situation by getting the Syrians into an awkward situation?

Junblatt expressed belief that it is necessary for the Palestinians in Beirut to retain their arms, for the sake of Lebanese and Palestinian causes, in his words.

He noted that a reconciliation between Hafiz al-Asad and 'Arafat has become impossible and urged 'Arafat to understand that the road to Jerusalem passes through Moscow, not Washington. He said: 'Arafat is in a hurry; I understand this. Still, I do not believe the next generation will return to Palestine.

Junblatt explained that the camps war was the basic cause of the break with Amal beginning in 1985. He added: In any event, it is difficult to have an alliance between Druze and Shi'ites, although perhaps the alliance was between the PSP and the Amal Movement as political organizations.

Junblatt called on the Hizballah to declare its position on Iranian-U.S. relations in the wake of U.S. arms sales to Tehran. He declared: I understand that the hostage issue is a humanitarian one that must be resolved. However, there is a political issue more important than Terry Waite and the others. There have always been relations between the Persians and the Jews. It

is a historical fact that Iran is seeking an outlet to the Mediterranean.

In conclusion, Junblatt said he believed that Syrian strategic interests do not permit the establishment of an Islamic regime in Lebanon. That is a danger which Syria cannot accept, he said.

Regarding his own relations with the Syrians following the latest tension, Junblatt replied: We face the sea, Israel, and Syria. We have chosen Syria to preserve our interests, proceeding from our traditions. He added: Forty days after my father's assassination I left for Damascus, despite all that had happened. We are Arabs. The Druze have always been the guardians of Islam and the Arab world's borders. We will not become border guards for Israel. He added: My most important achievement since my father's death has been strengthening the PSP's institutions. If I am the victim of a traffic accident — this is a reference to the way in which Kamal Junblatt was assassinated — there will be others who will continue the work.

Karami Notes Government Ready To Reopen Airport
NC171918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami chaired a meeting of the General Authority [of Beirut City] today. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and members of the General Authority.

Following the meeting, Karami affirmed that the government is fully prepared to reopen Beirut International Airport to air traffic. It is currently waiting for international insurance organizations to reinsure the national airline company's planes in accordance with agreements already concluded with them.

Prime Minister Karami also expressed hope that the ninth session of Lebanese-Syrian negotiations will produce positive results in the interests of all concerned.

New French Ambassador Arrives in Beirut
NC171229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Paul Blanc, the new French ambassador to Lebanon, arrived in Beirut today aboard a French helicopter that landed on the embassy premises. He was received by the embassy staff and Ambassador Emile Badra, representative of the Foreign Ministry.

AL-BA'TH on Murphy Remarks, 'Military Visits'

JN180829 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Political-Military Activities in our Region," the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says: Two days ago, Richard Murphy, the U.S. Administration's envoy to the Middle East, said his administration believes the settlement process in the Middle East is not dead, pointing to some changes in the stands of some officials in the region. He stressed that Washington's objective is to hold direct negotiations among the parties to the conflict. He reaffirmed that Reagan's 1982 plan is still good for any Middle East settlement. Murphy's statements were preceded by intensified political activity in our region and the world. This activity was not aimed at preparing for the international conference, as some news media said, but this activity and those moves that took and are taking place focused on the need to make the changes the Camp David parties believe are necessary to move to another step complementary to the treasonous Camp David accords.

Al-Ba'th adds: Reports said efforts are being exerted to create alternatives to guarantee the success of the agreements reached between enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Egyptian regime — agreements that Washington believes constitute the basis for any action to achieve the settlement. As is known, the Egyptian regime seems to have actually reached a certain agreement with 'Arafat's deviationist clique in this regard. However, this agreement has not yet been completed because it still needs a certain cover. What is taking place here and there serves this objective that the Egyptian regime is seeking to achieve.

Concluding, *Al-Ba'th* says: The most important and serious thing we must point to is the intensified military visits between Washington and Tel Aviv, which began with enemy war minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States last month and the current visit of the U.S. Army secretary to occupied Palestine — a visit that comes at a time when Washington has intensified its military concentrations in our Arab region in general. As we learned from experiences and developments, this intensified military action might be aimed at serving the political objective of all the parties to Camp David.

Mashariqah Interviewed on Revolution Day

PM180933 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 8 Mar 87 p 3

[Interview with Vice President Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah on the 24th anniversary of the Al-Ba'th revolution by unnamed *Al-Ba'th* correspondent; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Correspondent: The March revolution occupies a distinguished and distinctive position in the Arab liberation movement. How do you view the importance of this position and the role of Al-Asad's Syria in leading the Arab struggle?

Mashariqah: Since it was triggered by our great party, the Ba'th Party, in 1963, the 8 March revolution has occupied a prominent and distinctive position in the Arab liberation movement throughout the Arab world.

The revolution occupies its vanguard position in this liberation movement through its sincere expression of the struggling Arab masses and their aspirations to achieve their pan-Arab objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism, and also through its embodiment of the Arab masses' ambitions and aspirations to confront the plots of the Arab nation's enemies, namely the imperialists and Zionists, and to thwart such plots, whereby the Arab nation's enemies try to impose their hegemony over the entire Arab world and to extend their influence to all parts of the Arab region to control all its political, economic, military, and cultural capabilities so that those capabilities become part of their long-term universal strategy. [passage omitted]

Here we can also point to the resistance of the Arab masses, led by the leader of their march on the road to victory and liberation, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, to the imperialist and Zionist attempts aimed at belittling and aborting the achievements of the glorious October war through the efforts of the Arab nation's enemies to impose capitulationist solutions and liquidation plans on the Arab region to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Our struggling Arab masses, led by the leader of their march, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, resisted the traitorous Camp David agreements, which the murdered traitor signed with the Zionist enemy, thus blocking their path where originally they were intended to be extended to the Arab countries. The Arab masses also resisted the U.S. Administration's plan, the so-called Reagan plan, which is a true copy of the traitorous Camp David agreements. In fact, it is worse; it completely denies the Palestinian Arab people's rights. The masses have also aborted the Amman accord and the 17 May 1983 submissive agreement the imperialists and Zionists wanted to impose on fraternal Lebanon to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate. Before aborting this agreement in June 1982, our brave Armed Forces in the Lebanese arena confronted the barbaric invasion of Lebanon launched by the Zionist enemy. Our Armed Forces fought with unique bravery and with all their strength, and although they were alone in the battlefield on land and in the air, they inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist enemy in both war materiel and equipment, stopped his advance in many combat salients in which he was advancing, and in fact prevented him from achieving the objectives of his barbaric invasion. [passage omitted]

At the level of internal building, contemporary Syria, with the advances it has achieved since 16 November 1970, is in fact the creation of the builder of contemporary Syria, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. Arab Syria, under the aegis of his historic, wise, and brave leadership, has witnessed great development in the fields of agriculture, industry, utilities, services, education and higher education, technological progress, and so on. During his era, Syria has become a big workshop in which hundreds of projects in the fields of land reclamation, dam construction, excavation of irrigation canals, and agricultural mechanization and the setting up of hundreds of industrial projects in the country's various governorates have been carried out. This is in addition to building airports, bridges, and modern asphalt roads linking all parts of the country, and also the construction of railroads.

This is in addition to the establishment of hundreds of primary, preparatory, and secondary — both general and technical — schools throughout the country and the creation of a number of universities and scores of intermediate institutes specializing in various subjects to build a solid base for steadfastness and confrontation and to achieve strategic balance with the Zionist enemy in all its aspects — manpower, economic, political, military, cultural, and so on.

Correspondent: The Corrective Movement has a vital role to play in defending and protecting the March revolution and in deepening its popular democratic concept, both domestically and nationally. What are the most distinctive characteristics of this role?

Mashariqah: The dawn of the blessed Corrective Movement on 16 November 1970 signaled the beginning of a new era during which the blessed Corrective Movement restored to the revolution its purity, clarity, and prestige and deepened its popular democratic concept. The Corrective Movement has in fact restored cohesion between the party and the toiling popular masses until the revolution has become the strongest ever, with the masses' support for their party and the leader of their march, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, so they will continue under his historic, wise, and courageous leadership their victorious march of struggle, the march of building and liberation, the march of progress and socialism. [passage omitted]

Nor should we forget the Progressive National Front, which was one of the fruits and achievements of the blessed Corrective Movement and which united progressive national forces in Arab Syria within the framework of a front through which they can work to achieve the objectives of struggle of our popular masses in the fields of earnest and responsible work. Thus it can be said the role of the blessed Corrective Movement was vital and fundamental in defending the 8 March revolution and achieving its popular democratic concepts.

Correspondent: What are the reasons behind the economic and political pressures, military provocations, and threats from U.S. and Zionist imperialism to which the March revolution has been and still is exposed? What are the best methods to confront such pressures and threats?

Mashariqah: The stands adopted by revolutionary Syria, Al-Ba'th's Syria, Al-Asad's Syria — under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership — toward imperialist and Zionist plots hatched against the Arab region to control it, dominate it politically, economically, militarily, and culturally, and subject it to their long-term universal strategy. Al-Asad's Syria has resisted and thwarted these plans. Such stands arouse the rancor of the imperialists, the Zionists, and other enemies of the Arab nation, who see Al-Asad's Syria as an obstacle to the implementation of their plots in the Arab region and the application of their policies to it. Therefore, it is not surprising when imperialist and Zionist circles hatch plots against Syria, exercise all kinds of pressures and provocations, and threaten Syria to divert it from its line of struggle. Syria's stands on all the just causes of our pan-Arab struggle are firm and principled stands that no threats can divert us from or force us to retract. The Arab nation's enemies have tried various methods of conspiracy and various kinds of pressures, threats, and sometimes aggression, but in vain. They tried internal conspiracy, in which that gang of criminal agents, the Muslim Brotherhood, was its base and cheap tool, but our masses confronted the plot and thwarted it and confronted the base and cheap tools and crushed them. They tried foreign conspiracies, of which the Lebanese incidents were part, because Lebanon's security is Syria's security and Syria's security is Lebanon's security, but they miscalculated. Syria, thanks to its fraternal principles toward Lebanon, has been able to thwart the plot, preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity and people's unity, and stop the shedding of innocent blood simply for hateful sectarian purposes. They exercised economic pressures and various provocations based on cheap lies and allegations, such as the recent drama which Israeli and British intelligence staged in connection with the El-Al airliner at Heathrow Airport in London. But they failed to achieve their purposes. The same was also the case in their policies and aggressive actions such as the barbaric attack which the Zionist enemy launched against Lebanon in 1980. But our brave soldiers confronted him with all their strength, fought honorably, and repulsed the enemy. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian cause is the main cause in our pan-Arab struggle; it is the central cause in the Arab nation's struggle in this age, and so all the Arab nation's capabilities should be dedicated to the struggle for this cause. This is because the Arab-Zionist conflict is a pan-Arab conflict in one of its aspects and not just a conflict between Israel and one Arab country or another. This conflict is also a conflict of existence; so either we Arabs exist in this part of the world, in our territory, in our homeland, or the Zionist enemy exists at the expense of the Arab territories, Arab nation, and Arab rights. This conflict is also one of destiny and therefore it must eventually be settled in favor of one of the two sides; either in favor of the Arabs, who are the owners of the land and rights, or in favor of the Zionist enemy and his imperialist settlement plan in our Arab region. But the facts of history, the given facts of reality, and the elementary truths of right and logic confirm that the conflict is ultimately bound to be resolved in favor of those who are in the right, the owners of the land — the Arabs. The Zionist invasion is bound be defeated and its imperialist colonization plan shall fail. Palestine is bound to be returned to its people as a purely Arab state. The stand of our great party, the Ba'th Party, and our vanguard 8 March revolution is a firm principled stand toward the Palestinian cause and will not change until victory is achieved and the rights are restored to their people.

Correspondent: On the basis of the pan-Arab commitment promoted by the March revolution and deepened by the blessed Corrective Movement, Arab Syria worked toward helping fraternal Lebanon overcome its ordeal. How would you assess Arab Syria's role in this regard?

Mashariqah: Syria's role in fraternal Lebanon was a brotherly role right from the beginning. When the bloody incidents erupted in Lebanon in 1975, Syria did not merely contemplate what was going on in the Lebanese arena, for Lebanon is a fraternal country to Syria and also because the Arab people of Lebanon form an integral part of the Arab nation. Lebanon is also part of the Arab world and Lebanon's security is Syria's security, just as Syria's security is Lebanon's security. Syria's fraternal initia-

tive toward fraternal Lebanon under the direct supervision of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad took the greatest credit for helping Lebanon overcome its ordeal, preserving its territorial integrity and unity, preventing its partitioning into sectarian cantons, and stopping the bloodshed on its land out of hateful sectarian purposes.

Syria's role toward Lebanon is still going on and the Syrian initiative toward our brothers in Lebanon will remain in effect until Lebanon is restored as sound and strong as in the past so it can assume its role among its Arab brothers and in its Arab environment. The leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, has emphasized this on more than one occasion. Syria is certain that conciliation among the various factions in Lebanon is the only way to overcome the ordeal and that dialogue is the only way to achieve this conciliation. Therefore, Syria is sparing no efforts to promote such a dialogue and consequently achieve such a conciliation. Syria will continue to play this role until conciliation is achieved, the ordeal is overcome, and Lebanon is restored sound and healthy to its Arab family so it can play its full role among its Arab brothers. [passage omitted]

Repercussions From Pollard Affair Continue

Committee Powers Sought

TA171419 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The Cabinet has referred to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation the proposal to amend the law on commisions of inquiry, so that the fact-finding committee on the Pollard affair can force witnesses to appear before it and testify under oath. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'ami reports that the Cabinet today heard a report by the prime minister on the fact-finding committee, at the end of which Shamir said that the government will honor the committee's conclusions and recommendations.

The Cabinet was also briefed on the procedures being followed in cooperating with the U.S. authorities investigating the arms shipments to Iran.

Envoy Decries U.S. Comment

TA180529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese has turned down Israel's request that federal statements on the Pollard affair be toned down. The request was submitted to Meese last night by the Israeli ambassador to Washington. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that the ambassador decried statements issued by the Attorney General's Office on the affair, particularly remarks by the prosecutor in the Pollard trial on the possibility that there may be additional spies in the United States who pass on classified intelligence to Israel. As we said, the U.S. attorney general replied that he is not prepared to pledge that such comments will cease.

Rabin: Cooperation Continues

TA180600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says the Pollard affair should be viewed in the right proportion. Speaking last night at a dinner in honor of visiting U.S. Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Israel's defense minister said a mistake had been made, but Israel had apologized, made clear its position, and cooperated with the United States on the issue.

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that the implementation of your visit today, which was planned months ago, shows our capability — on your part as a superpower and Israel as a small country — of overcoming some of the difficulties that exist from time to time in the relations between our two countries. I believe that your visit to Israel will serve as a landmark in the development of the strategic cooperation between our two countries, which is continuing without any problem. Let us hope that we all will be able to reduce the damage or setbacks and see the most important issues and the ultimate goals above them. [end recording]

Secretary Marsh said he believes that the concern shown in Israel regarding the incident will heal the wound, and he predicted that relations between the United States and Israel will be even stronger.

Shamir: No More Spies in U.S.

TA180610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Last night in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Shamir joined Defense Minister Rabin in categorically denying U.S. prosecutor Digenova's interview with *The Washington Post* that Israel is operating more spies in the United States. Speaking to the Hadassah women's organization, Shamir again expressed his regret over the Pollard affair and emphasized that U.S.-Israel relations remain strong. Jeff Black reports:

[Begin recording] [Black] Prime Minister Shamir's denial of reports from Washington that other Israeli spies, aside from Pollard, were working in the United States was unequivocal:

[Shamir] Well, I know, I am sure that there are no Israeli spies in the United States, and you know we now have two commissions to investigate all of this affair. I would prefer and advise all of our friends and observers to wait for the commissions' conclusions.

[Black] When asked how he could know this if the Pollard affair was conducted without the political echelon's knowledge, the prime minister replied: logic. In his address to the Hadassah women, Shamir described the Pollard affair as a tragedy, but he said it should be seen in context. Shamir stressed the affair was only an episode in Israel's long- lasting relations with the United States, and that Israel was doing everything it could to, in his words, clear up the affair. Shamir was optimistic as to the future of Israel-U.S. relations.

[Shamir] An alliance is tested in times of difficulty, and I hope that we both — the United States and Israel — will pass that test satisfactorily.

[Black] On another issue of controversy between Israel and U.S. Jewry, Shamir remained firm. He stressed Israel's opposition to the U.S. granting refugee status to Soviet Jews. Shamir said it was an offense against Israeli sovereignty when a person carrying an Israeli visa is given the status of homeless refugee. [end recording]

Levi Questioned on Sela'

TA171427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1153 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The Pollard affair was discussed today in two Knesset committees, in the plenary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and in its subcommittee. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and was asked about the affair. Our correspondent in the Knesset Hayim Zissowitz reports:

[Begin recording] Even while its subcommittee is intensively engaged in examining the events surrounding the exposure of Jonathan Pollard, the plenum of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is not relinquishing this issue. The appearance of Lt Gen Levi served as another opportunity to raise at least two questions, one concerning the appointment of Colonel Avi'em Sela' as the Tel Nof base commander, and the other concerning the connection between the military and political echelons.

Knesset Member [MK] El'azar Granot of MAPAM was the one to pose the question on this issue, preferring to give it a general formulation. He asked whether it is possible for information with far-reaching political implications to be held back in the IDF and not passed on to the defense minister. Also, does the chief of staff know of such a thing happening during his term in office?

Once the questions had been asked and it was the chief of staff's turn to answer, a dialogue ensued between him and Granot. The chief of staff asked that Granot rephrase his question and make it more specific. Granot refused, and finally Lt Gen Levi asked whether it was conceivable to even think that information would be withheld.

Other MK's raised the matter of the promotion of Avi'em Sela'. Shevah Weiss and Binyamin Ben-eli'ezer of the Alignment, Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement, and others expressed their belief that this appointment was a grave mistake. MK Sarid particularly attacked the chief of staff for defending the appointment after it was made, saying that in this way Lt Gen Levi showed a lack of judgement and exhibited opposition to the political echelon. MK Sarid also demanded that the entire committee take exception to the conduct of Air Force officers who went to the defense minister to pressure him into appointing Avi'em Sela' to his new position. Sarid called this a trade union of senior officers.

The chief of staff did not conceal his feelings of anger and sense of offense. He has a different opinion on this painful issue of the Sela' appointment, he said, and his view may be understood in several years. Levi added that, even if his view is unpopular, he insists on expressing it.

As for the officers' meeting with the defense minister, the chief of staff stood apart from this matter completely: I was not party to organizing the meeting; I only learned later that it had taken place.

These were today's exchanges in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; they will probably not be the last on this matter. [end recording]

MA'ARIV Views Sela' Promotion

TA131926 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 87 p B3

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The Political Echelon Capitulated to the Military Echelon"]

[Text] No one doubts the talent or qualifications of Colonel Avi'em Sela' — "Pollard's handler" — who boasts achievements that may be termed "historical" in special missions, such as the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Nevertheless, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the colonel's colleagues, who came to ask that "their friend not be forsaken behind enemy lines," that when a pilot returns from a sortie injured, there is nothing that can be done for him. As painful as this may be, he can fly no more....

Had the defense minister shown consistency on this, Israel might have been spared a lot of the damage it has continued to suffer since the U.S. court handed down the sentence to Jonathan Pollard on counts of treason and spying for Israel.

There may be doubts about the role the political echelon played in recruiting and activating an Israeli spy on U.S. territory, but there is no doubt that the political echelon bungled the handling of the aftermath of the Pollard affair, both before and after his sentence was handed down. It failed mainly in its confrontation with the military echelon, or to be more precise with the Air Force top brass, in which the latter came out having the upper hand.

One can understand the need to preserve Air Force "morale" and to heed friends who plead for camaraderie and claim that "one does not leave a casualty behind on the battlefield." But with all due respect to this glorious force's top brass, it is not they who should determine Israel's political positions; this is the job of the political echelon.

If Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir thought that under the circumstances it was necessary to terminate the career of Col Sela', or at best to withhold his promotion, why did he not try to persuade the defense minister that Israel should not get into a conflict with its most important ally? Was it so difficult to anticipate that the U.S. Administration would not be able to dismiss such provocation easily?

The administration, through its embassy in Tel Aviv, in fact left no room for doubt about its feelings on this delicate business. The charge d'affaires presented the defense minister with a document stating explicitly that promoting Col Sela' in spite of his role in the U.S. espionage affair would create a problem. Do seasoned politicians need to hear a more explicit ultimatum to grasp the full intended import of a message? Did it not suffice that the administration informed the Israeli Government that promoting Sela' under the circumstances "would create a problem?"

In off-the-record conversations, one could hear politicians saying that although the Air Force men control the broad horizon of the skies, when it comes to assessing political situations they can be very "narrow-minded." So why capitulate to their views?

What calamity could have befallen us had the promotion been withheld only until "things settled down again," involving a delay of 6 or 12 months? Perhaps with time it would have been easier for the Americans to swallow or ignore his promotion altogether? One must not expect the Air Force personnel, among whom are some great fighters with vast combat experience, to evince political savvy or demonstrate a realistic assessment of political developments. So where was the political echelon?

The closer one follows the development of events, the more one is convinced that this was an unfortunate political debacle without precedence. Who ultimately decides on fateful state matters, the elected national leadership or a bunch of officers, regardless of how rightfully they deserve our admiration and irrespective of their past great deeds?

If indeed the defense minister saw things in their correct light and perspective, as his remarks would attest, why did he not himself reach the very conclusion he personally verbalized in his parable on the "lame" pilot being disqualified to fly again? Avi'em Sela' was "burned," to use common espionage lingo, so he cannot be dealt with, at least for the foreseeable future, as though nothing has happened.

Yitzhaq Rabin came with up with a "half-tea, half-coffee" proposal: The appointment of Sela' as base commander at Tel Nof was approved, but his promotion was withheld. Rabin must have thought the Americans would not fuss over this too much, although judging by his remarks to the colonel's colleagues, the defense minister was not minimizing "the problem", having been duly warned by Washington.

Well, it turns out the Americans are "making a fuss" about this.

In this specific case, one cannot help but reach the cruel conclusion that Avi'em Sela' has been "burned" in every sense of the word as his future in the Air Force is concerned. The domestic argument does not concern the Americans, who for a variety of reasons may accept the political echelon's contention that it knew nothing of the recruitment of Jonathan Pollard as an Israeli spy. (One manifestation of this was offered in the past by then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who suggested that Israel not hesitate but admit the truth and apologize for it, and who even expressed readiness to cooperate with the United States.)

The current dispute is over one issue: whether or not to dismiss Col Avi'em Sela'. (The demand that Rafi Eytan be eased out of his civilian position as director general of Israel Chemicals is somewhat different, as unlike Sela', who is still in the Air Force, Eytan has been removed from the framework within which he operated when carrying out the espionage through Pollard.)

Outwardly it would appear that there is no need to implement this dismissal at once, as the fact-finding committee whose job it is to investigate the affair is only just beginning its work. However, it seems that, for his final good deed to the Air Force and the state as a whole, Sela' should not be shilly-shallying, as neither he nor his friends deny that he carried out the sorry "mission" he was entrusted with. It is doubtful whether relations with the United States can be rehabilitated without this step. Naturally, there will be those who would call this offering a sacrifice to the American Moloch, and some people have already said as much in private, but Sela' will evidently be unable to escape such a fate.

People are actually unfair to the United States when they wonder why it is so stern and demanding in seeking the head of Avi'em Sela', so to speak. Well, to begin with, as long as the provocation in his new appointment was unknown and until the U.S. military attache was invited to the festive ceremony, the United States remained silent. Secondly, it seems that, in view of the string of affairs with which Israel laid a burden, to put it mildly, on the United States over the past 12 months, the U.S. conduct toward Israel as an ally has been the epitome of courtesy.

Suddenly people are trying to prove that Israel's contribution to the United States in intelligence and in the sphere of weapons development goes well beyond public knowledge. Even if this is truly so, what has this got to do with it? Has the United States ever carefully quantified what it has given Israel? Indeed, thanks to its ability to give and not always only receive, Israel is conceived, in the eyes of the incumbent administration, as a strategic asset of even greater importance than the NATO members. Does this, however, legitimize Israel's espionage activity in the United States or license it to use a U.S. citizen, a member of the intelligence community, for its own ends?

The argument that what Pollard handed over to Israel did not harm U.S. security and that in general the information he passed on should have "by right" been transferred to Israel from the United States is not a very good one. If Israel believes that, established and documented strategic cooperation notwithstanding, the United States is not supplying it with vital information required for its security, there are a million and one ways of discussing this with the administration. But espionage, as it was carried out by Pollard, is definitely not the proper way.

What is the point of denying it? At precisely the time when it was necessary to extinguish the fire, the political echelon lost command of its faculties and allowed the fire instead to spread and burn everything good in the United States: the Jewish community, the media, and Congress, which have to date stood by Israel.

This avoiding of the guilty plea and failing to acknowledge a mistake in the "Sela' affair," plus the the political echelon failing to reach the proper conclusions, will only exacerbate the situation. The mistake was a grave one, no matter how hard we try to wriggle and writhe. The truth is that the political echelon capitulated, just like that, to the military echelon.

HA'ARETZ Summarizes Damage

TA151429 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 87 p 9

[Commentary by Eliyahu Salpeter: "The End of the Era of Goodwill"]

[Text] The prime minister's stupid statement that "from our viewpoint, the Pollard affair is over" has been accompanied by attempts to reassure the public that the damage it caused is not so terrible and will pass, if we only ignore it. Both these statements are unfounded. The damage will continue to erode the relations between the U.S. and Israel for a long time, particularly if there is no attempt to straighten things out at home in Israel: U.S. history teaches us that all the affairs people tried to hush up this way acquired unusually long lives. As for the damage that will be caused to us, a short damage report is sufficient to show that this is the most serious event in the history of our foreign relations.

The harm threatening us can be divided into four types of damage: technical, public, economic, and political-security. All are related.

— In the technical field, if we go from slight to severe, professors, students, and various experts may find themselves confronting many more closed doors when they want to study, research, or exchange information.

Relations between both countries' intelligence services will be more restricted. Operating an agent in the very heart of an institution that belongs to a friendly country is something that should never be done. There are already reports of difficulties in relations and, following this, we will receive less information collected by the Americans. The damage may be serious, because we are to a great extent dependent on the Americans for information collected through advanced technological measures, particularly satellites. The result could be that we will receive less vital information about the enemy and this will mean that broader security margins will be needed, as well as higher security outlays.

There are already signs of a cooling in relations between the Pentagon and the security establishment in Israel. Above and beyond the anger over the very fact of the espionage activity and the suspicions it arouses, the promotion of Avi'em Sela' is considered to be especially provocative. The result could be a decrease in mutual visits, fewer invitations to Israeli officers to complete further studies with the U.S. armed forces, fewer joint exercises and less regional logistical cooperation. Thus, even the strategic cooperation agreement could lose much of its practical value.

— The public damage affects our overall image in the eyes of the U.S., both general and Jewish. "Israel the faithful friend" was one of the main foundations of the special relationship we enjoyed with the public as a whole, the press, Congress, and important sections of the administration. There is a great deal of mutuality running from the cores to the components of this special relationship. The Jews did not fear to express active support for Israel, the ally of the United States, and this was also acceptable to their non-Jewish neighbors. Both these facts contributed to the scale and weight of the pro-Israeli influence applied by voters to the senators and members of the House of Representatives. The attitude of the public and Congress was reflected in the position of most of the media, which, for its part, built up the sympathetic image. All of these elements have been gravely damaged, and it is to be feared that the damage will produce waves on both sides.

There is no need to recall the enormous damage caused to U.S. Jews who have been overshadowed by the suspicion of dual loyalty. However, here it is worth commenting on the Pollard affair's contribution to Arab propaganda in the United States and in the world. The Arabs have always claimed the Jews are not loyal to their countries of citizenship because their first loyalty is to Israel. Now along comes Pollard and states this openly, as a justification for his actions. There is no doubt that the Arabs will resume use of the claim of dual loyalty more vigorously than ever, and not everyone will now regard this as antisemitic propaganda.

The annual economic aid the United States gives Israel totals $1.2 billion. (Additionally, over the past 2 years we received a total of $1.5 billion in special economic aid to heal the economy.) Until the last few days we were being reassured that this aid "is not in danger;" now this is not being said with such great confidence, and there are people on Capitol Hill who are explaining that there will be no need for any big effort against Israel to punish it. There is now a general trend toward cutting foreign aid because of the enormous deficits in the U.S. budget. It would be sufficient for some of the senators and members of the House of Representatives who fought like lions in the past against any cuts to the aid to Israel to ease up in their efforts for matters to develop "naturally" and several more millions of dollars to be cut from Israel.

The difference between these sums will determine our ability to continue the standard of life to which we have become accustomed. The hundreds of millions of dollars could be the "padding" which permits the government to maintain artificial foreign currency rates to curb a renewal of galloping inflation. Several hundreds of millions of dollars could be the gap between the timely and regular payment of interest and repayment of our giant foreign debts and the risk of international bankruptcy.

There are also fears for Israeli exports. Reports have been published that several export deals involving equipment and services in the security field connected with the U.S. Government have been canceled. Israel signed an agreement for a free trade zone with the United States, and this has significance that goes beyond the legal formalities; apart from the demand for quality, goodwill in the U.S. market is also required.

— We are likely to pay the highest price in the security and political fields. There is tangible danger to military aid, now standing at $1.8 billion. Any significant cut to this will have an effect both on the level of IDF equipment and the arms and ammunition reserves and on making the equipment we receive more sophisticated.

The political will to supply us with the most advanced equipment has a decisive importance in a time of peace and is fateful at a time of war. We may say that Israel's security, in the final analysis, rests on the support of the United States. This begins with the will to impose a veto in the UN Security Council on resolutions that are hostile to Israel, goes on to the pro-Israel influence on U.S. allies, and culminates in deterrence on the Soviet Union. Even pessimists do not fear that all of this will disappear overnight because of the Pollard-Eytan-Sela' affair, but, in these fields, the level of accumulated influence has a decisive effect.

It seems that the Pollard affair's most severe blow was delivered to the peace process. It may even have provided the danger of the next war with a new impetus. The alliance between Israel and the United States undoubtedly helped engender the idea among the Arabs that there is no chance of beating Israel on the battlefield so it would be better to begin accepting its existence. In addition to this there was the feeling that, in order to improve relations with Washington, the tone used toward Jerusalem should be altered. This applied in the case of Egypt, but, in addition, it also applied to a country as extremist as Iraq.

The extremists in the Arab world and Iran will now be able to say that the U.S. support for Israel is not eternal and U.S. willingness to defend Israel is not automatic under all conditions and in all situations. It is, then, possible to think again about pushing Israel into the sea.

Bombing Attempt at Embassy in Athens Thwarted
TA181314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] There has been an attempt to carry out an attack in Athens. At around noon a suspicious object was thrown at the Israeli Embassy in Athens by two persons on a motorcycle. No one was hurt, however, and no damage was caused. A policeman stationed at the site was unable to take down the motorcycle's license plate number. Embassy security personnel saw the object land in the building's backyard and immediately alerted the police. Our correspondent Jean Kohen reports that Athens security personnel removed the parcel 30 minutes later, and it was apparently a bomb.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Athens said that all embassy staffers are well and, as we said, no damage was caused. Greek police are investigating the incident.

Rabin: U.S. Troops Europe's 'Political Hostages'
DW171225 Bonn DIE WELT in German 17 Mar 87 p 6

[Interview with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin by correspondent Juergen Liminski; date and place not given]

[Text] *Die Welt*: Chemical weapons are being used in the Gulf war. Syria also now has a special unit for chemical warfare. How great is the danger of chemical war in the Middle East?

Rabin: The history of chemical warfare in the Middle East is long. In the early sixties the Egyptians used chemical weapons in the Yemen war. We have evidence that the Iranians have developed some chemical weapons so that the Iraqis for their part will maintain more restraint in using such weapons. We have sufficient information to assume that the Syrians have been making considerable efforts for 2-3 years to increase their ability to produce chemical weapons, be it for use as bombs or in surface-to-surface missiles. Therefore, we must arrange our defense accodingly in the military and civilian spheres. Israel's armed forces are prepared, and Israel has sufficient gas masks for all its population. Collection points are distributed over the whole country, so that the masks can be immediately distrubuted after a government decision based on the defense minister's recommendation. Damascus must know that we will react to such an attack with severity with whatever means we consider necessary. Regardless of the differences in size, power, and geography, the Americans see that Israel is the only democracy in this region, and that a strong Israel is contributing to peace. Unfortunate affairs can certainly irritate relations temorarily. I do not want to play down the seriousness of recent affairs, such as Iran and Pollard, but in the long run they cannot call the common interests into question.

Die Welt: What are they?

Rabin: First, Israel as a favored non-NATO ally is a country, which, in constrast to most European NATO countries, does not want a defense pact with the United States.

Die Welt: Once there was a rumor that Israel wanted to become a NATO member.

Rabin: No, that is incorrect. We do not want to have a defense pact requiring the United States to send troops in case of an attack, or even to station troops here. We are proud that we are one of the few countries that are strategically and politically very close to the United States, and that nevertheless have never requested — not even in times of war — that GI's shed one drop of blood for Israel's defense. We do not keep 300,000 U.S. hostages as the NATO countries do.

Die Welt: You call the U.S. troops in Europe hostages?

Rabin: Yes, political hostages. Once more: We are proud of being able to defend ourselves alone, without involving other countries' military in the Arab-Israeli conflict. I believe this is a strategic contribution to the United States that must not be underrated. Permit me to say — after all I was Israeli ambassador in Washington for 5 years — this is the main pillar for the understanding between Israelis and Americans. Here is a country that does not ask for our boys and no money for their deployment. The Americans cannot say that about any other ally.

Second, we therefore have the moral right to say to the Americans, as Churchill once did: Give us the stuff, and we will do the work; give us the means for self-defense. That is the basis for our common interest.

Third, this region with its wars has become somewhat of a test range for U.S. and Russian military equipment. The Americans give us the most modern conventional weapons to face the most modern Soviet conventional weapons in the hands of the Libyans, Syrians, and some Gulf states. Nowhere else could the two superpowers get such data for their military industry and research. We give the United States that data in full awareness, because we are part of the Western democratic alliance. In addition, it helps to develop next-generation weapons, weapons we might have to depend on. The Americans know that they can rely on us.

Die Welt: Could Israel's independence possibly permit you to say no to the United States regarding an international Middle East conference?

Rabin: I am not so certain at all that the Americans want that conference so dearly. We are not so eager for it either. We agree with the Americans on the decisive point of that problem — that peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict can be achieved only through direct talks between those involved. In other words, those involved must decide to end the war and take up peaceful relations among themselves. All the others can only assist, but they cannot do it for us.

Die Welt: Where do you see the capitals of international terrorism today?

Rabin: From an Israeli point of view, the greatest danger emanates from Syria. It is the country that supports terror against Israel most. Then come Libya, Iraq, Iran, and also Saudi Arabia, by financing the terrorist organizations.

Die Welt: And the PLO?

Rabin: The rift between King Husayn and 'Arafat was a hard setback. 'Arafat has been weakened. The PLO as a whole, however, in Lebanon has thousands of potential fighters in the refugee camps. It must only send money and instructors there, and it is doing that.

First Israelis Visit Prague Since Ties Cut

TA101442 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 87 p 4

[Report by Ori Lewis]

[Excerpts] Prague — Neither the extreme cold nor the imperious march towards the top of the world's tennis rankings by Czechoslovakia's No. 1 racket Miloslaw Mecir has put a damper on Israel's spirits as they prepare in earnest for their first venture into the top ranks of the Davis Cup.

The team practiced twice already yesterday in the converted ice hockey rink at Hradec Kralove, site of the World Group tie beginning on Friday. [passage omitted]

A group of some 30 Israeli supporters are here to give vocal backing to the team. Many of them are Czech-born, and apart from watching the tennis, they hope to locate long lost relatives. This is the first official group of Israeli tourists permitted in Czechoslovakia since ties were severed after the Six Day War.

Levi Favors 'Open Struggle' at Herut Convention

TA180604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] There are fears that the Herut Party Convention, due to convene in 10 days' time, will again break up; this after a speech last night by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi sharply attacking his Herut colleagues Prime Minister Shamir and Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Arens. Levi told reporters in Bene Beraq that he favored what he called an open struggle for party positions at the convention. He also sharply criticized those in Herut who, in his words, call themselves elders of the movement. Levi said he was no less an elder than they were.

Last March, the previous Herut Party Convention broke up in disarray after bitter infighting between Levi, Shamir, Arens, and Ari'el Sharon.

ALGERIA

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD161400 Algiers APS in English 1310 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 16/3/87 (APS) — Tunisia's Foreign Minister, Hedi Mabrouk arrived on Sunday in Algiers on a three-day official visit during which he will confer with Algerian officials on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

In a statement to the press, Mr Hedi Mabrouk said he was glad to visit Algeria at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. "I am confident that this visit will enable us to exchange views on ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation". The Tunisian minister said talks will also take up Arab and international issues, which will make this meeting fruitful and profitable for both countries.

Talks With Ibrahimi

LD171527 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 17 March (APS) — In the frame of the official visit of the Tunisian foreign affairs minister in Algeria, Algem-Tunisian [as received], political talks took place yesterday here.

Following a tete-a-tete talks between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member, foreign affairs minister and Mr Hedi Mabrouk, discussions were further extended to the two delegations. During this working session, the two sides made a thorough examination of bilateral relations and exchanged information and views on regional and international political questions.

The two ministers examined all the developments of the situation in the great Arab Maghreb in the prospect of a new impulse in the political and the economic assets of the Fraternity and Concord Treaty. In this regard, they dealt with the evolution of relations between the Maghrebin states as well as the present data of the Western Sahara conflict in its political and military dimensions.

The two ministers also spoke about the situation prevailing on the Arab scene as well as efforts underway in favour of the end of the war of Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the Lebanese national reconciliation, the reunification of the Palestinian resistance as well as the holding of an Arab summit. They also referred to the Iraq-Iran war and the prospects of its peaceful solution. Regarding the African topical questions, the two ministers examined the situation in southern Africa, Chad as well as means to reinforce Arab-African cooperation.

Received by Party Leader

LD171546 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 17 March (APS) — The head of the FLN party CC Permanent Secretariat, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, audienced Monday here Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk.

The two sides examined during the talks the results reached at the political and economic levels since the signature of the Treaty of Fraternity and Concorde four years ago, and expressed the interest the two leaderships give to relations between the two parties and the two countries.

In conformity with the principle of consultation and coordination adopted by the two countries, Messaadia and Mabrouk exchanged views on certain Maghreb and Arab questions and remarked a convergence of points of view.

Moreover, at the international level — particularly on the Arab and African scenes — Saharan and Palestinian questions and Arab and African topical questions are at the center of talks, which also took up various fields of the Algerian-Tunisian cooperation and means to assure a better complementarity and cooperation in conformity with the will of the two peoples and leaderships.

Mabrouk Meets Bendjedid, Departs

LD172239 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hedi Mabrouk has described his official visit to Algeria as a beneficial one. The Tunisian foreign minister was received by President Chadli Bendjedid and by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. Speaking about his talks with the Algerian foreign minister, Hedi Mabrouk said they had been very rich and very important for both sides. The Tunisian foreign minister left Algiers this evening.

Ibrahimi Speaks on Chad Mediation, Arab Maghreb

PM171207 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 14 Mar 87 p 14,15

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi by Hamidah Na'na' in Addis Ababa during 24-28 February OAU Ministerial Conference]

[Excerpts] *Al-Tadamun*: During the conference, Algeria made great efforts regarding the Chad problem. There has been talk for some time about Algerian mediation between the parties concerned. What is the nature of this mediation and on what basis it is founded?

Dr Ibrahimi: Algeria has played a positive role in that it has participated in all the consultations that resulted in the presidential appeal on the Chad question. Out of its adherence to the OAU resolutions on this problem, Algeria is making intensive efforts to implement these resolutions in accordance with the well-known principles: That the Chadian problem concerns the people of Chad; that its solution can come about only through respect for the sovereignty of Chad, the integrity of its territory, and its political independence; and that all foreign forces, be they African or otherwise, should be withdrawn. There is no Algerian mediation as such, but conciliatory efforts are being made to effect national conciliation in Chad and lay down the basis of good-neighbor relations between Chad and Libya through a peaceful settlement of their dispute. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: The PNC is expected to meet in Algeria shortly. Has Algeria succeeded in its efforts so that this council will be one of Palestinian national unity?

Dr Ibrahim: Algeria has never despaired of bringing the Palestinian brothers together since unity of ranks is a fundamental condition for the triumph of their just cause. The efforts Algeria is making in this regard, since the well-known appeal Brother President Chadli Bendjedid made, have given a new impetus to the dialogue among the various Palestinian factions, a dialogue that is found on a spirit of unity. This in itself is regarded as a positive result. We are hoping that further progress will be made on the path to understanding and reconciliation among the Palestinian brothers.

Al-Tadamun: Following the Moroccan-Algerian rapprochement, which culminated in the meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II in Wajdah, relations between the two countries have once again become cool if not critical. Are there any new developments in these relations?

Dr Ibrahimi: There are no bilateral differences nor a crisis between Morocco and Algeria. The existing problem lies in the dispute in Western Sahara, on which Algeria's principled stand differs from the policy the Moroccan Kingdom is pursuing, a policy aimed at annexing the Saharan territory by force. The February 1983 meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II constituted a qualitative development in the Arab Maghreb arena in that it was an opportunity to hope for a peaceful solution for the Western Sahara dispute and, therefore, the removal of the barriers hindering the creation of conditions conducive to building the Great Arab Maghreb. But the Moroccan Kingdom's insistence on the idea of imposing a military solution in the Western Sahara in its interest has killed such hope. Nevertheless, we in Algeria still believe the Moroccan and the Saharan leaders have a responsibility to the Arab Maghreb peoples to seek a peaceful solution that will put an end to the painful war between the brothers and open wide the door to persistent work for the realization of the dream of a unified Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Algeria mediated between Iraq and Iran earlier, and there has been talk about Algeria carrying out secret contacts with both sides. Talk about such a mediation has stopped. Does this mean Algeria has stopped making efforts to halt the Gulf war. What is your opinion of the developments in this war?

Dr Ibrahimi: Algeria's efforts to halt this war raging between two Muslim peoples who are destined to coexist peacefully and in good-neighborliness has not stopped and will not stop. The solution Algeria is seeking to achieve is an honorable one that would safeguard the integrity of the soil of both sides. In view of all that is involved, we believe that for efforts to be effective persistent work away from the limelight is needed.

Al-Tadamun: Libyan-Algerian relations have entered a new phase. How do you evaluate the progress of these relations, and what results do you expect?

Dr Ibrahimi: Algerian-Libyan relations have returned to the normal situation that usually exists between two sisterly and neighboring countries since last year's meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in 'Ayn Manas. Currently there is a frank political dialogue and fruitful economic cooperation between the two countries. From this premise and in view of the fact that Algeria is a stabilizing factor in the region, it is working to bring about a peaceful settlement of all existing disputes between Libya and some of its neighbors. Through such action Algeria is also creating the necessary conditions to begin building the Great Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Algeria is one of the few Third World countries that has been able to maintain distinguished relations with the United States and the Soviet Union. How do you, as head of Algerian diplomacy, evaluate this balance, and what is the method of achieving it?

Dr Ibrahim: Algeria pursues a genuine nonaligned policy. In addition to its desire to preserve its national interests in its relations with other countries, it does not think in terms of balance as much as it respects the principles and objectives of its firm and nonaligned policy. We deal with the superpowers on the basis of this principle and we adhere to our national independence and the freedom of our political decisionmaking with regard to international issues. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With YAR Leader 17 Mar

LD171845 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Gulf of Defiance, 17 Mar (JANA) — This evening the brother leader of the revolution and [YAR President] Colonel Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting in the Gulf of Defiance before the departure of the YAR president and the accompanying delegation from the Great Jamahiriyah.

Salih Makes Statement, Departs

LD172018 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Gulf of Defiance, (JANA) — This evening YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the accompanying delegation left the Gulf of Defiance after a 3-day visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the Gulf of Defiance, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made a statement to JANA, in which he said:

We were very happy to visit the Great Jamahiriyah and to meet with Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of 1 September revolution.

This visit gave rise to positive results following our discussion of aspects of the close fraternal relations between the two revolutionary and fraternal countries. We spoke of widening the horizons of mutual cooperation between the one Arab people to achieve the various pan-Arab goals and the aspirations of our Arab nation in unity, solidarity, and cohesion around agreed goals that will enable the Arab nation to preserve its sovereignty

and stability and to adopt its free resolutions in the various issues of destiny. And we discussed firmly facing up to the various colonialist and Zionist schemes and conspiracies aimed at paralyzing our Arab nation's will to achieve is pan-Arab aspirations.

This visit enabled us to come up with a common clear perception of bilateral fraternal relations between the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries, opening wider fields for joint cooperation in various spheres, and of issues of destiny and other issues of mutual interest. This makes us satiafied with the achieved level of fraternal struggle relations between the revolutions and peoples of the YAR and the Great Jamahiriyah. These relations have become a model for the peoples struggling for and aspiring to a better future.

During this visit to the Jamahiriyah, we were able to see what the Libyan Arab people have achieved and their important strategic accomplishments in various fields during the revolutionary rule. These achievements are a consolidation of the abilities and resources of the Arab nation, which pleases us because of the Jamahiriyah's spirit of work, initiative, and revolutionary creativity.

There is no doubt this visit has achieved positive results which we hope will fulfill the aspirations of our Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf. These aspirations preoccupy every Arab who wants to overcome the tragedies and crises to which our nation is exposed under all conditions. We hope that these results will achieve what the nation aspires for in prosperity, power, freedom, and progress.

MOROCCO

Hassan Receives King Fahd, Chad Foreign Minister

LD171803 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Fes, Mar 17 (MAP) — King Hassan II had here Monday evening a one hour and half tete-a-tete meeting with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz.

The Moroccan sovereign also received the visiting Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou. The meeting was attended by Chadian ambassador to Rabat with residence in Paris.

The foreign minister had declared Sunday upon arrival in Morocco that he would convey to King Hassan II a message from President Hissein Habre of Chad.

Discuss GUNT Leader

LD171914 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The Moroccan sovereign received the Chadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gouara Lassou yesterday evening. The head of Chad's foreign affairs brought messages and information, notably concerning the possibility of the forthcoming return to Ndjamena of the president of the original GUNT, Goukouni Oueddei. Farida Moha was also able to meet Gouara Lassou:

[Begin Moha recording] These talks in Fes between King Hassan II and Chad's foreign affairs minister dealt with two matters: Military ones first: Gouara Lassou stated to Radio France Internationale that Chad was watching with anxiety a reinforcement of Libyan men and equipment and that it feared a land offensive after the latest bombardments by Tripoli. At the political level, and still according to Gouara Lassou, President Hissein Habre is in close contact with Goukouni Oueddei, who is presently in Algiers. Goukouni's men have already joined with the FANT, and it only remains for Goukouni to return to his country. Goukouni was president of Chad, he stressed. President Hissein Habre has (?observed that) he will be welcomed in line with the rank he occupied. The head of Chad's foreign affairs acknowledged that the phase of negotiations between Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre is well-advanced and said he hoped the former head of the GUNT would return to Ndjamena soon. [end recording]

SUDAN

Reports of Accord on Moving Falashas 'Baseless'

EA172231 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Mr Hasan Atiyyah, the refugee commissioner, has denied the existence of any agreement between the commission and the U.S. Administration on moving Ethiopian Falasha Jews to Israel. He told today's *Al-Usbu'*: This is a baseless and dangerous report, totally inaccurate, and based on guesswork. He also denied to the paper the existence of any link between the resettlement of 1,500 refugees in the United States and the Falasha evacuation operations of the past. He said the operation of moving these refugees to the United States was being undertaken in accordance with the refugee resettlement program. Finding countries prepared to host the refugees was one of the solutions being applied in solving their problems.

He said the current operation was being conducted in conformity with stern and strict regulations designed to prevent the exist of any refugee capable of damaging the country's supreme political interests. All cases were carefully screened by the National Security Committee in accordance with existing regulations and laws. The commissioner pointed out that the refugee resettlement program was not confined to the United States, but the commission was also dealing with Canada, Western Europe, and elsewhere. He stressed that it was in Sudan's interest that refugees be resettled elsewhere in a principled and regulated manner.

Garang Urges End to 'Military Option' in South

JN151928 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 12 Mar 87 pp 1, 9

[By Al-Fatih al-Tijani]

[Text] Addis Ababa — In an exclusive statement to *Al-Ittihad*, Colonel John Garang, leader of the so-called SPLM, which is leading an armed rebellion against the Sudanese Government, has urged all Sudanese political forces to drop the military option as a way to solve the civil war in southern Sudan because "none

can achieve a decisive military victory over the other party." He said "a lasting peaceful solution should be reached."

In his statement to *Al-Ittihad*, Garang said his movement is prepared for dialogue, that he has heard of Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's new initiative, and that although he is not fully aware of its contents, he welcomes it if it opens the doors to dialogue and provides a suitable atmosphere for achieving peace.

Garang added he still believes that the Koka Dam Declaration, signed by the SPLM and the National Alliance, is a sound framework for convening a constitutional conference and dealing with all problems facing the country. He added he welcomes anything that would remove the current stalemate in political stands.

In reply to *Al-Ittihad's* question, Dr Garang said his movement has not received official notification of an Egyptian mediation with Ethiopia, and added that resuming dialogue does not require the mediation of another country or the interference of foreign parties because the Sudanese can solve their problems by themselves. Nevertheless, he added, he welcomes any new Egyptian or Ethiopian ideas on the Sudanese issue. Garang called on the Sudanese Government to lift the state of emergency only in the north if lifting it in the south is currently impossible because of military battles, contending this will prove the goverment's seriousness and good intentions.

He concluded his statement to *Al-Ittihad* by saying that without stability Sudan will not be able to achieve economic development, and such stability cannot be realized unless the civil war comes to an end.

Before receiving the *Al-Ittihad* correspondent in Addis Ababa yesterday, John Garang held a prers conference during which he showed a film on his troops' capture of Pibor. He denied the government forces' withdrawal was tactical and claimed his forces inflicted massive losses on the Sudanse Army. He added his forces buried a number of soliders in mass graves; seized a quanitity of military equipment, including 30 heavy-caliber cannons, 16 mortars, and 3 antiaircraft guns; and captured a number of soldiers.

Garang said his forces began to run vital utilities in the town, which he said was of great strategic value. He added the fall of Pibor enabled his movement to control all of the Pibor District in the Upper Nile Region in addition to the (Qashla) and (Kayotya) Districts, the Bor District with the exception of its capital, all of Yirol District, and both the Rumbek and Tonj Districts with the exception of their capitals. He claimed his forces now control 90 percent of rural areas in southern Sudan.

The film, which was about 1 hour long, showed Col Garang talking on the radio with his forces, which besieged the town on 4 and 5 March, and directing his units to shell military garrisons. Although the film did not show battles between Garang's forces and government troops, it contained clips of Garang entering the town in a military jeep accompanied by three large personnel carriers. He was also seen inspecting weapons seized by his forces. The city looked empty except for his soldiers, who stormed it on 5 March in apparently large numbers. The film ends with a clip of John Garang hoisting his movement's flag over the government forces' garrisons in the same military tradition followed by the Sudanese Army in saluting the flag.

In his press conference, Garang said the government forces reinforced their presence around Juba airport while his forces moved away from the city. Asked about the presence of Libyan forces in western Sudan, he said this presence is neither aimed at nor poses a threat to his movement.

The *Al-Ittihad* correspondent noticed that Garang devoted his press conference to talking about his forces and their victories, as he called them, while he devoted his statement to *Al-Ittihad* to talking about peace.

Al-Mahdi, Others Comment

JN171329 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
15 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Khartoum — *Al-Ittihad* has canvassed the opinions of several Sudanese leaders on the statements made by Colonel John Garang, leader of the rebellion in southern Sudan, which it published last Thursday. In these statements, Garang announced his readiness for a dialogue and discounted the military option, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi welcomed the good intention showed by Col Garang in agreeing to holding a dialogue with the government. He affirmed that his government has begun preparing a specific initiative for a peaceful solution to the southern problem, reviewing the steps that have been taken thus far and those that will be taken toward a solution. He said if the Garang movement accepts the initiative, then this would open the way for more objective steps.

Al-Mahdi noted that an unofficial seminar was held in the United States and was attended by representatives of the Garang movement and several Sudanese parties. That seminar, he said, voiced positive ideas on a peaceful solution. Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad, minister of information and official government spokesman, described Garang's move as a logical and positive step that could pave the way for dialogue and the constitutional conference.

Al-Ittihad also canvassed the opinion of Sayid Ahmad al-Husayn, minister of interior and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party. He said: Since the April uprising, our slogan and policy have been repudiating violence and avoiding the military option due to their futility. Our conviction is that the democratic solution is the aim. Therefore, we welcome Garang's statement without any preconditions, whether the Koka Dam Declaration or others.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, minister of agriculture and secretary general of the Al-Ummah Party, considered Garang's statements a new development in the movement's concept. He added that Garang's initiative must be backed by credibility because, unfortunately, he is controlled by the Ethiopians. He added: We ask him to free himself from Ethiopian control and come to Khartoum, which will open its doors to him and his elements.

Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, minister of industry and a leading official in the Al-Ummah Party, welcomed Garang's intentions and said: The government welcomes every peaceful initiative from the Garang movement. However, an initiative must be distanced from political outbiddings, especially since the government is determined to achieve peace. Mubarak al-Mahdi explained that the government has not yet received anything official from the Garang movement on this peaceful trend.

Armed Forces Chief 'Reassured' About South

JN171143 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-'Azim Saddiq, chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces has stressed that the Armed Forces are in full control of the main roads, waterways, airports and runways in the southern regions.

In a statement he made here yesterday upon his return from the Upper Nile military region, he said that, following the arrival of vehicles loaded with food supplies, life in the capital of the Malkal Region has become normal. During his visit to the region, his excellency inspected the military units stationed there and was reassured about the conduct of operations.

Southern Council Members Sworn in 15 March

JN160930 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 15 (SUNA) — Members of the Council of the South Administration, Anglo Beda, Martin Mumo, Charly Gulotook oath before the Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and in the presence of the Chairman of the Council Mathew Abour I Yang and the Attorney General 'Abd al-Mahmud Haj Salih, here this morning.

In this concern Anglo Beda was committed to public service and culture and information, Martin Mumo to transport, housing and public utilities while Charly Gulo to the administration, legal and presidency affairs.

NIF Official Says Libyan Forces Still in Darfur

JN151541 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1419 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — Dr 'Ali al-Haj, secretary of the political affairs office of the National Islamic Front [NIF], has said the Libyan forces are still present in large numbers in the areas of Karnoi, Ateina, ('Ad al-Khayr), (Kalbas), and Wadi Howar in the Darfur Region west of Sudan, contrary to a recent statement by the minister of state for defense affairs that they are not present there.

In a press conference here today, Dr al-Haj added that French Jaguar planes frightened the citizens in the (Al- Janiyah) area due to their daily sorties at a low altitude over the town. Dr al-Haj said French and Chadian forces are present in Chadian areas adjacent to Sudan which threatens a confrontation with the Libyan forces present on Sudanese territory.

Mahdi Ibrahim, Constituent Assembly member and head of the foreign relations department of the NIF, said in the press conference the government cannot allow the presence of foreign forces at a time when it is working to mediate an end to the conflict. Mahdi added the government wants to distract attention from its failure to meet its promises by turning Darfur into a region of armed conflict among foreign forces. He said the NIF has disclosed this to the Darfur citizens, asserting the NIF is not against Libya or France but is first and foremost interested in Sudan's sovereignty.

Dr 'Ali al-Haj said the situation in the Darfur Region is tense. He said this prompted a number of foreign ambassadors to visit the region. Dr al-Haj did not specify the nationality of these ambassadors but said the visit to Darfur by the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum was a declared visit. Dr al-Haj added that a large number of relief organizations still work in the region despite the improvement of living conditions there. This suggests, he said, that these organizations are playing a role other than relief operations, especially since they possess modern communications equipment which the government does not possess. He, however, did not reveal the other role which he claimed these organizations are playing.

Dr al-Haj then discussed armed looting in the Darfur Region [words indistinct]. He said the government's false Islamic course and its failure to implement Islamic laws resulted in the aggravation of armed looting. Al- Sanusi attributed the armed looting to the leakage of modern weapons across the border with Chad and also across the Darfur boundary with the Bahr al-Ghazal Region in southern Sudan.

During the press conference, Mahjub Muhammad al-Daw, Constituent Assembly member, called for establishing a commission comprised of those who occupy constitutional posts as well as citizens, (?to defend Darfur's security). It would also pressure the government and provide it with proposals and ideas so the region will not turn into an arena for armed conflict.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Urges Development of Libyan Relations

LD131509 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] President Habib Bourguiba this morning held a business meeting attended by Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Mansour Shkiri, chief of the Presidential Office and minister of public service and administrative reform; Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk; and Interior Minister Zine Labedine Ben Ali.

The meeting covered Tunisian-Libyan relations in light of the recent visit by Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi to Tunisia. The president issued his instructions for the continued development of these relations. [passage omitted]

Sfar, Klibi Discuss Relations

LD131933 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Rachid Sfar, met this afternoon at the Government Palace in Qasba with Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, who said that with the improvement in Tunisian-Libyan relations it was his duty, as Arab League Secretary general, to contact the two sides and learn more details about the steps they have agreed on to improve their relations. He noted that during his meeting with Rachid Sfar he expressed his pleasure at that trend and offered the prime minister the Arab League's readiness to undertake any positive action that would contribute to narrowing the rift between the two countries. He pointed out that the initiative and subsequent results confirmed it was possible to overcome difficulties, however complex.

Press Welcomes Developments

LD131610 Kuwait KUNA in English 1439 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, March 13 (KUNA) — The Tunisian press has been unanimous Friday in welcoming normalisation of relations with neighbouring Libya following statements made by a leading Libyan envoy yesterday after meeting with President Habib Bourguiba.

Major al-Khuwaylki al-Humaydi, the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council member, said after meeting with Bourguiba yesterday that the two sides have agreed to turn a fresh page in bilateral relations to rectify damage caused by break in relations in September of 1985.

Al-'Amal newspaper of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party said marginal differences should not interfere with a number of historic and geographical factors existing between the two North African Arab countries.

"In order to restore relations to their previous stance, we must draw the lessons from our past experiences by settling all our outstanding problems," the party newspaper said.

The independent daily *Al-Sabah* said where as diplomatic relations are a symbol of formal relationship, brotherly ties rely on non-interference in internal affairs of the others.

The fact that "geopolitical reasons resulting from regional and international developments such as the American bombing of Tripoli and Banghazi and Libya's involvement in the Chadian impasse should not stop from extending bridges (with Libya) if building such bridges is in the interest of our people," the newspaper said.

Weeklies *Al-Akhbar* and *Al-Eelan* [title as received] voiced similar hopes saying the two countries should get down to real business benefitting their two peoples begining with the laying down of pillars of good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. *Al-Eelan* went on saying "it is now up to the Libyans to show their good intentions in building integrations relations bases on mutual respect."

The Tunisians expect the return to Libya of some 32,000 of their nationals deported from Libya in 1985 and the smooth flow of the nationals of the two countries across the borders.

Al-Humaydi's visit to Tunisia was, for the first time since 1985, given full coverage by the official media including radio and television.

WESTERN SAHARA

Information Ministry Reports Battle Successes

LD171952 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Significant human and material damage was suffered by the Moroccan invading royalist troops during operations by the revolutionary Saharan Liberation Army. A communique issued by the Saharan Ministry of Information stated today that this damage resulted from the explosion of a number of mines planted by the fighters of the Saharan Liberation Army behind the defensive walls. The Saharan communique indicated that the explosion of two mines in the region of (Hafr Hayyas) on 6 March resulted in the destruction of one vehicle and one tractor trailer.

The communique added that some Moroccan forces died in a minefield on 8 March between (Stinyula) and Douma. This resulted in a number of fatalities and the destruction of more than 20 vehicles. The Saharan communique emphasized that on the same day four armored vehicles were destroyed when they drove over four antitank mines in the region of Douma and (Gnidat Lmasdar).

The communique stated that between 10-13 March 21 vehicles of the invading royalist forces were destroyed and their passengers were killed as they drove over 21 mines planted by the Saharan revolutionaries along the axis of Douma-(Gnidat Lmasdar)-(Dmas Gelb Ennas).

MAP: Arms Cargo For Polisario Detained in Ceuta

LD171816 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat (MAP) [no date as received] — A Danish cargo ship, *The Honerland*, transporting arms bound for the Polisario, has been held for a week at the port of Ceuta, the Spanish enclave in Morocco: This was reported on Tuesday by the Moroccan paper *Le Matin du Sahara*.

Citing "well informed sources," the paper stresses that these arms, bound theoretically for Nigeria, were acquired in Belgium and loaded at the port of The Hague.

The Cargo ship, which had already made a technical stopover at the port of Lisbon, called at the port of Ceuta to go on to an Algerian port, the paper points out.

KENYA

Presidential Directive Reinstates 6-Day Workweek

EA171950 Nairobi KNA in English 1605 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Nairobi, 17 Mar — The minister for labour, Mr Peter Okondo, this afternoon directed the employers in the private sector to revert to the six-day working week immediately. Mr Okondo said President Moi's directive that workers go back to the six-day working week should be effected immediately and the employers must reorganize their working schedule and ensure re-enforcement of the six-day week.

Addressing a press conference at the parliament buildings, Mr Okondo said the five-day working week for the manufacturing, industrial and other sections of the private sector was being done away with, because it had brought a lot of problems and difficulties to both the workers and employers and the abolition of the five-day week working system was the best solution to the problem.

The minister asked the TU's, the employers and the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) to come together and implement the old system that was in force before 1st May 1986.

Mr Okondo said some of the problems the employers had faced was the misconception by some people that they should be off only on Saturday and refusing completely to believe otherwise.

Mr Okondo appealed to employers to try and see what solutions they could come up with regarding any agreement they had got into with their employees regarding the five-day working week and make necessary amendments so that the six-day working week is effectively implemented.

Mr Okondo noted that the five-day working week reduced the labour force and thus affected the country's economy. Mr Okondo said this country was too young to start reducing its working period and as a result we must not at anytime reduce our working time.

The minister, however, noted that civil servants were not affected by this change, because the act was introduced under a separate act. The minister said that some countries were jealous of Kenya's success and they were working hard so that Kenyans could not realize their aspirations, adding that South Africa was very active in this area.

President Moi Pays Visit to UK, Meets Thatcher

For coverage of President Daniel arap Moi's visit to the United Kingdom, including his meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, see the United Kingdom section of the 17 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

UGANDA

Trade Protocol Recently Signed With Ethiopia

EA172052 Nairobi KNA in English 1617 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Kampala, 17 Mar (KNA) — Uganda and Ethiopia have signed a trade and protocol agreement, which will provide for mutual exchange of agricultural and industrial commodities under barter arrangements. This, according to the agreement, was in line with the Uganda Government policy to promote export of non-traditional commodities among countries within eastern and south Africa. Provisions under this agreement will require a mere exchange of goods at the international market price.

The release said that under the protocol, which was signed recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Uganda will export to Ethiopia tea, beans, raw tobacco, hides and skins, copper wire, cotton and cotton by-products, hard wood for furniture and plywood in exchange for cement, marble, animal drugs, salt, building materials, agricultural inputs, sports equipment, and wines and spirits.

The Uganda minister for commerce, Dr. George Kanyeihamba signed for Uganda, while the Ethiopian minister for foreign trade Mr Wolle Chekol signed for his country.

CHAD

FANT Reports Libyan Land, Air Attack on Yarda

AB171408 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1337 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Communique No 47 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 17 March in Ndjamena]

[Text] Since 0800, 17 March 1987, the Libyan apprentice soldiers have been attacking the positions held by the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] at Yarda by land and by air. Fighting is going on with unprecedented violence. Faithful to their mission, the valiant FANT have (?met) the challenge.

Forward, glorious freedom fighters! The struggle continues until final victory!

The tally of this fighting will be announced to you later.

55 Libyans Killed in Attack

AB171449 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1340 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Communique No 48 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 17 March in Ndjamena]

[Text] As we have announced, the Libyan slave traders dared to attack our positions this morning, 17 March 1987, at Yarda in the Borkou Region. Our valiant FANT, always true to its calling, reacted energetically by inflicting a crushing defeat on the aggressors.

Here is the outcome of this fighting. On the enemy side: The Libyan soldiery, in their flight, left 55 dead on the battlefield; 25 were taken as prisoners of war.

Three T-55 tanks and three Toyota vehicles equipped with 14.5 cannons were captured.

Three jeeps equipped with 106-mm cannons and four T-55 tanks were destroyed.

On the allies' side: We regret the deaths of two martyrs, who fell honorably on the battlefield, and the wounding of five others. (?Only) the valiant FANT's vigilance and determination can safeguard our fatherland's territorial integrity.

Immortal glory to our martyrs who feel honorably on the battlefield! Forward, heroic freedom fighters for the final victory!

GUNT Minister Explains Goukouni's Ouster

AB171941 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpts] On 14 March 1987, GUNT President Acheikh ibn Oumar presided over the opening of a meeting of the GUNT ambassadors and representatives abroad. On this occasion, Facho Balam, the minister of external relations and cooperation, who was the first to address the participants at the meeting in the presence of cabinet members, stated:

[Begin recording] Mr President, your excellencies, dear comrades: After many attempts, we have at last succeeded in achieving our goal — that is, to meet to take stock of what we have done so far and work out new plans for the future.

What are the tasks to be accomplished at present — tasks we consider important? These immediate tasks are, first, the explanation for the changes that have occurred within the GUNT. It is important that the new situation within the GUNT be clearly explained and understood. The changes are the consequences of a situation that had prevailed before and that reached a climax in the last two actions undertaken by the former GUNT president in February and March 1986. First was his unilateral launching of the war of February and March 1986. Second was his refusal to attend the Louboumo [reconciliation] meeting. These two factors seriously cast aspersion on and undermined the foundations of GUNT both at home and abroad.

To these facts can be added the nonimplementation of the provisions of the first Cotonou accord, the refusal of political debates on essential issues, questionable decisions, and so on. But beyond these facts, it is the former GUNT president's way of handling the state's public affairs that constituted the source of the misunderstanding within the coalition. These observations should serve as lessons to us in the future.

Second, our vision of the Chadian issue: The GUNT, as a focus of consensus of the majority of Chadians for change, remains unchanged in its principle. The reorganized GUNT is pursuing the aim of a final and lasting peace in Chad. Men pass away, but institutions remain. The Lagos Accords provided for this change. Out of the 11 Chadian organizations that signed the Lagos Accords, 8 are outside of the Ndjamena Group and currently belong to GUNT. The GUNT is not a fiction, as some people think. There are the realities on the field. The GUNT wants a solution of overall peace between the Ndjamena group and the GUNT within the OAU framework. Considering our past experience, we want negotiations in two stages — one preparatory, followed by summit meeting. At the present stage, Ndjamena is refusing discussions under OAU auspices, and we must be aware of this. It is opting for a subregional solution, or at the worst, a rallying to its regime.

The assistance we are receiving from our Libyan friends is a real fact. We must not be ashamed of this. The Libyans are on our side at GUNT's request. We must proclaim these truths aloud. We say yes to peace and reconciliation, no to going over and resignation. [passage omitted]

Mr President, excellencies, and dear comrades, it appears today that our struggle is increasingly assuming dimensions that go far beyond our borders. It is a struggle that falls under the universal strategy of international imperialism. Hence, it is necessary for GUNT to review its alliances and build the foundation for a clear-cut social process. The world is divided into two camps today. We must choose a side because our enemies are numerous. [passage omitted] [end recording]

BENIN

President Kerekou Meets With GUNT Delegation

AB171138 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
0615 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou yesterday morning granted an audience to a GUNT delegation led by Abdoulaye Younouss, adviser at the Presidency of the GUNT.

Brother Abdoulaye Younouss delivered a message from President Goukouni Oueddei to President Mathieu Kerekou.

At the end of the audience, the GUNT adviser told newsmen that the message he delivered concerned the recent political and military developments in Chad. He also stated that Goukouni Oueddei remains the true president of the GUNT despite the present division within the government.

GHANA

Protest Made to Togo Over Border Incidents

AB180652 Accra Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made strong representations to the Togolese Government on recent incidents along Ghana's border with Togo. A statement by the ministry said this was at a meeting at which the Togolese charge d'affairs was summoned by the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah. The secretary drew the envoy's attention to a number of incidents along the Ghana-Togo border over the last 6 months. The statement said, in a note handed over to the charge d'affaires, the ministry recalled that during a visit on 22d of last October by the Volta regional secretary to the Aflao border area, the secretary was informed that the Togolese authorities intended to erect a concrete wall across the border, from the beach to pillar 4, in order to seal off the border entirely. On visiting the area of pillar 11, the secretary discovered that Togo had erected a barbed wire fence from pillar 11 to pillar 13. As a result, some Ghanaian villages had had their source of drinking water cut off.

In a report received last February, it was revealed that pillars 85 and 86 at (Ampeyo) border area were missing and that a portion of the land was being claimed by Togolese farmers. Besides, Togolese soldiers, numbering about 200, have been sent to the area. It has also been reported that an attempt has been made by Togo to remove pillar 87 which is in Brewaniase area. That attempt failed only because of the rocky nature of that particular area. According to another report received on 10th February this year, (Kpatabu) village in Yendi District, located between Saboba and the Republic of Togo, has been wrongfully annexed by the Togolese Government and various structures have been constructed there.

Togolese soldiers also patrol the village and, on occasions, arrest Ghanaians who go there. Reports from (Bontugu) also indicate that on 21st February this year, at 0830 pm, Togolese officials entered Ghanaian borders and erected (?five) pillars along the Bankpurugu-(Yambori) road. The new pillars were removed and deposited at the 6th Batallion Detachment at (Bontugu). In addition, there was an incursion by the Togolese authorities at the border town of Kosa in the Demon zone. Another report indicates that a group of people have been stockpiling arms and ammunitions at (Nangani), a village in Togo, that borders (Tankpibo) in Ghana. The purpose of this exercise is not immediately known. According to the statement, Dr Asamoah made it clear at the meeting that Ghana is gravely concerned about these and other incidents along the eastern border. He therefore called on the Government of Togo to cooperate in putting an end to such incidents and discontinue all acts of trespass in the interest of good-neighborliness. The secretary also reminded the Government of Togo of the need to revive the border commission, as agreed during the meeting of foreign and interior ministers in Lome on 12th May last year, in order to provide the avenue for the settlement of border problems. Dr Asamoah firmly emphasized Ghana's determination to protect and defend her territorial integrity.

LIBERIA

Mrs Sendolo-Belleh To Act During Doe's Absence

AB172225 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpts] President Samuel Kanyon Doe leaves Monrovia tomorrow afternoon for Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, to attend the funeral services of President Houphouet-Boigny's sister. [passage omitted]

While President Doe is away, the minister of health and social welfare, Mrs Martha Sendolo-Belleh, will conduct the affairs of the nation as chairman of the cabinet. She is to work in close coordination with the vice president as well as the legislature.

NIGERIA

Babangida Speech on Religious Disturbances

AB171643 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Address by Nigerian Head of State Major General Ibrahim Babangida to the nation on religious disturbances on 16 March — recorded]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians: In the early hours of (?6) March 1987, I addressed and thanked you for the moral support which you gave me during my recent treatment in France and commended you for the stability and peace which prevailed during my absence. A few days after that broadcast, the agents of destruction have struck again.

Following arguments between two student groups of different religious associations in the College of Education at Kafanchan, Kaduna State, we are aware of physical exchanges which resulted in injury of a number of students and damage to college property. The situation was brought under control within a few

hours and the college was closed down in the interest of peace. However, there was a spill over to Kafanchan township over that week; hence some riots broke out and lives and property were lost. The (?excess) of the Kafanchan incident in places like Kaduna, Zaria, Katsina, Komkua, Ikara and Kontia, all in Kaduna state, is now part of our history.

Although the situation has now returned to normal in all the affected areas, the riots which lasted for about a week on a sporadic basis, have taken a heavy toll of lives and property. In the middle of last week, we instructed the governors of the state of (?Benue) and Kaduna states to take a very necessary step and (?take) a measure to contain the situation and prevent the outbreak of violence in these states. These measures have now led to the arrest of about 512 persons, most of them in Zaria and Kaduna. In media commentaries on the riots, religious differences have been given as the ostensible reasons for this unprecedented outbreak of violence in Kaduna state. However, recent investigations have shown that whilst the clashes in Kafanchan are (?to be) religious in origin, the wanton destruction of lives and property in Kaduna, Zaria and other places in Kaduna state were carefully planned and masterminded by evil men with sinister motives, who saw the incident in Kafanchan as an opportunity to subvert the Federal Military Government [FMG] and the Nigerian nation. What we are dealing with, therefore, [words indistinct] the civilian equivalent of an attempted coup d'etat, organized against the FMG and the Nigerian nation. The FMG has therefore decided to deal with the situation accordingly. A joint investigation panel made up of senior police and military officers has been set up to get to the roots of the matter by identifying, arresting, and bringing to trial all those who have masterminded the acts of brigandage and murder committed against the country in general, and Kaduna in particular, since the 5th of March 1987. This administration is determined to carry through its program for the revival and redress in the Nigerian economy and the society before the 1990's. We have as [words indistinct] to crush and eliminate any obstacle which wants to prevent the achievement of this objective.

This government cannot and will not be intimidated by any persons or groups of persons, no matter who they may be. The peace, happiness, and harmony of the Nigerian nation are far greater than any group interests within the Nigerian society. This is why we had a civil war to preserve a corporate existence of Nigerians. In that unfortunate war, thousands of Nigerians died and millions more suffered untold hardships. We cannot therefore stand by and allow a group of ambitious and mindless power seekers to push us into yet another civil war.

The FMG and the Nigerian Armed Forces are therefore prepared to go to any extent to stamp out the evil men in our midst who appear determined to wreck the peace of our country and our economic revival which is just beginning to take place across the nation to the advantage of the masses of the people, especially the neglected rural majority. This administration will never relent in its commitment to freedom of worship for all Nigerians regardless of their religion. This is what our constitution guarantees for all of us and we will never allow anything to dilute that constitutional assurance.

We as a people are very tolerant. The two major faiths, Christianity and Islam, have coexisted in our society for centuries without bitterness and without violence. I will therefore appeal to our people, especially the young people, who were the main tools and victims of the recent riots, not to allow themselves to be used by the fanatics and social manipulators who lack the courage to come out into the open to fight their own wars but will rather instigate (?such youth) to riot and (?face a sure death.)

In view of the multi-ethnic and multireligious nature of our society, we have no choice but to live together in peace and concord as we have done through the ages. We have instructed all the law enforcement agencies, including the police and the military, to ensure in every corner of Nigeria that there will always continue to be freedom of religious association and worship without molestation or intimidation. Any person or group threatening that freedom will be regarded as an enemy of the nation and will be so treated. We do not recognize any (?secret sect). [words indistinct] enough is enough!

In order to deal with the criminals arrested during the last week of rioting, the FMG will set up a judicial tribunal to try all those arrested in a summary fashion. The tribunals shall have the power to try persons for all offenses known to our law, including, but not limited to arson, murder, rape, treason, etc and shall have the power to impose the penalties provided by the relevant laws on our statute book. In accordance with our human rights policy, those to be tried by the special tribunals will be free to employ the services of legal counsel in defense of themselves. They may appeal against the sentences and the tribunal will not be allowed before any such sentences is carried out it will be reviewed and confirmed by the Armed Forces Ruling Council. [sentence as heard]

The members of the Tribunal are as follows: Hon Justice (A.G. Karim-White), chairman; Colonel H.A. Mohamed, member; Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, senior advocate of Nigeria, member; Magistrate (Sindulaye Komati) member; Major I.S. Ben Sadjdi, member.

While the tribunal is dealing with the criminal aspect of these national tragedies, an administrative board of enquiry will be established by the Kaduna state government to assess and document the extent of damage and destruction (?caused) by the riots of Kaduna state. While the FMG is fully aware that no material assistance can ever compensate the loss of human life, which is sacred, we are determined nonetheless to offer assistance through the state governments to those concerned in their efforts to rehabilitate themselves and their organizations.

For quite some time, we have been having a proliferation of religious associations and organizations in our educational institutions, especially at the (?highest) level. Ordinarily, the existence of such religious organizations in the educational institutions would be regarded as indicative of the younger generation becoming more religious and better citizens. However, [words indistinct] have made it abundantly clear that many of these religious associations on the campuses are actually of an extreme and intolerant disposition, (?weakening) rather than consolidating stability and harmony in our society.

In order to check further spread of intolerance and bitterness in our society, the FMG has decided to ban with immediate effect all social or religious associations and organizations in all institutions of higher learning, including advanced teachers' colleges, colleges for arts and science, polytechnics, and universities. In addition to that, all Nigerians, including those in educational institutions, are free to continue to practice their religion in the normal way and in recognized places of worship.

Finally, we wish to appeal to all Nigerians of whatever religious persuasion to rally around the FMG in its effort to restore peace and harmony to our society. We assure all citizens of this great country that they are free to continue to live where they like and embrace and practice religion of their choice. We are able and willing to deal with all agents of destruction in our society. With your prayers and support we will overcome. The march to economic recovery and social growth and tranquility will continue. Thank you!

Events in Kaduna Postponed Due to Disturbances

AB172120 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The (?eighth) joint graduation of the division of agricultural colleges of Ahmadu Bello University, Zairia, has been postponed indefinitely. It was earlier scheduled to be held on Saturday at the College of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Mando, Kaduna. A statement by the college said this followed the recent arrests in the state and regrets any inconveniences it might cause [word indistinct] and graduates. A new date will be announced later.

Similarly, the Cooperative Union of Made in Nigeria, Limited has announced the postponement of its meeting scheduled to have taken place today in Kaduna. In a statement, the union said the postponement was due to the recent disturbances in some parts of the state. The cooperative union, however, shares with Governor Abubakar Umar and the entire people of the country their sorrows of the unfortunate incidence.

SENEGAL

President Diouf Receives Visiting PRC Minister

AB171208 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Zhu Xun, PRC Minister of Geology and Mineral Resources, continues his visit to Senegal. Today, after visiting various industrial installations in Thies and Lam Lam, he was hosted at a luncheon by his Senegalese counterpart, Mr Serigne Lamine Dioup. This afternoon, Mr Zhu Xun was received in audience by President Abdou Diouf. Mr Zhu Xun later told our reporter (Yoro Oumar Diop) the topics of his discussion with President Diouf.

[Begin Zhu Xun recording in Mandarin fading into French translation] [passage indistinct] I conveyed to President Diouf warm greetings and best wishes from Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Committee's Central Advisory Commission; Li Xiannian, president of the PRC; and Zhao Ziyang, premier of the State Council. President Diouf and I reviewed the friendship between Senegal and the PRC. We also reviewed bilateral cooperation between our two countries. Both sides have expressed their desire to develop further cooperation between them.

President Abdou Diouf has asked me to convey, on my return to the PRC, his greetings to Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Committee's Central Advisory Commission; Mr Li Xiannian, president of the PRC; and Mr Zhao Ziyang, premier of the State Council. [passage omitted]

TOGO

Government Denies Ghanaian Accusations

AB181337 Paris AFP in French 1309 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Lome, 18 Mar (AFP) — Togolese authorities denied categorically this morning Ghana's accusations over border incidents between Togo and Ghana. This was contained in a statement to AFP by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry.

Togo has been the victim of aggression, and it is normal that it take certain measures to ensure its security. But we have never threatened Ghana's territorial integrity, and we have never, for example, had any intention to erect a "wall" in Lome, along the border, the spokesman stated.

The other accusations are unfounded. Togo is a country of peace that will use all its resources to contribute to the preservation of peace, he added, stating that the Lome government is quite prepared to meet with Ghana within the framework of the Ghana-Togo joint commission to discuss peacefully the border issues.

The Ghanaian Government on 17 March sent a protest note to the Lome Government, which it accuses of being responsible for many border incidents, including the wrongful annexation of a Ghanaian village, the construction of a wall along the border in the capital, Lome, and various incursions into the Ghanaian territory.

ANGOLA

USSR's Gilashvili Meets Foreign Minister

MB171432 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation visiting Angola, is on his second day of his visit to Luanda. The Soviet official was received by Minister of External Relations Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda this morning. In reply to the welcoming speech by the head of Angolan diplomacy, Pavel Gilashvili stressed that Angola is a key country in the Frontline States' struggle against South African apartheid and colonialism.

Also this morning, the Soviet delegation held another meeting here in Luanda with a delegation of the People's Assembly Standing Committee, which was headed by Comrade Dino Matross, MPLA Central Committee secretary for state and judicial bodies. While wishing the visitors a good stay, Comrade Dino Matross said the visit is yet another opportunity for Angola and the Soviet Union to familiarize themselves with their priorities, difficulties, and prospects. On the occasion, Pavel Gilashvili congratulated the Angolan people on the recent elections to the organs of the people's power.

Holds News Conference

MB180710 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said the racist South African regime's criminal policies are the real cause and essence of the international crisis in southern Africa. Pavel Gilashvili was speaking at a news conference in Luanda. He was received by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party, in an audience yesterday.

The Soviet official defined apartheid as a crime against mankind and reaffirmed the USSR's solidarity with the Frontline States and the SWAPO and ANC liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa, respectively.

On the Reykjavik summit, Pavel Gilashvili said it had brought greater hope to mankind. He explained that the Soviet program is not a mere declaration, but a plan which the USSR is trying to implement at all levels.

Pavel Gilashvili and his delegation end their visit to Angola today. They have held talks with a delegation from the People's Assembly Standing Commission headed by Comrade Juliao Mateus Paulo and they have had a meeting with External Relations Minister Afonso van Dunem.

Pavel Gilashvili and his delegation are expected to hold talks with a group of deputies from the Luanda provincial assembly [words indistinct]. The delegation headed by Pavel Gilashvili will leave Angola this evening.

Education Cooperation Accords Signed With GDR

MB180737 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Angola and the GDR signed two cooperation accords in the field of education in Luanda today. This marked the end of the talks between the two delegations in the framework of the seventh session of the subcommission for education of the Joint Angola-GDR Economic Commission. The talks lasted nearly a week.

The first accord centers on the correspondence of qualification certificates, degrees, and academic titles between the two countries. It was signed by Luis Filipe da Silva, Angola's deputy minister of technical and professional education; and Gerhard Engel, GDR deputy minister for university and technical school affairs.

The second accord was signed by Joaquim da Silva Matias, deputy minister of education for basic training, and Werner Engst, GDR deputy minister of public education. It centers on the control and organization of the eighth session of the subcommission for education of the Joint Angola-GDR Economic Commission, which is due to take place in the second half of 1988.

Savimbi Discusses UNITA Push, Criticizes UK

MB171750 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 17 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] UNITA, the movement fighting against Angola's MPLA Government, has just passed its 21st anniversary. Recently, there's been much talk of UNITA planning to launch a big offensive against government forces, but nothing has materialized yet. Laurence Lalagne of our French African service has just been into Angola with UNITA. At their headquarters in Jamba in the southeast, she talked to UNITA's president, Jonas Savimbi, and asked him what had happened to the big push.

[Begin recording] [Savimbi] I think that there is no strategy of a new push (?towards the north). Today we are in the premises of Zaire, Uige, Malanje, Cuanza Norte, which traditionally were considered as the zone of predominace of the MPLA. And then the question is not to go there now; it is to consolidate in that area. When we talk about the stalemate, if we take in consideration what the MPLA has on their side — they have 45,000 Cubans, they have 3,000 East Germans, they have 3,000 Portuguese from the Communist Party, they have 2,000 North Koreans, they have so many people, Russians, who are now leading themselves, and directly the troops of the MPLA in the field — so if we take all those elements in account, the stalemate represents the victory of UNITA, because if not, we would have been crushed long ago. We have resisted. And I think our intention is to be more active, and we are going to be more active. And I think a stalemate is not a bad thing, it is a good thing from where we can start to move forward, until the MPLA will realize that there is no military solution, but has to be only a political solution.

[Lalagne] Can you tell me, you said on the MPLA side there's Cubans, Russians. What about the South Africans on the UNITA side?

[Savimbi] We don't have any South African here. Even if all the observers they can just surprise us, come during the night, they will not find a single unit of UNITA where you have a single South African soldier or official; we don't have that. First of all, it is a question of pride. UNITA, they want to do things themselves. So we work on the basis of self-reliance. And we think that if we were relying on human support from the South Africans, we could become more vulnerable the day the South Africans go, because the policy of UNITA is to try by all means to have more friends. The Americans — it has been a struggle to get the Americans on our side. And also we are going to fight to get friendship with Britain, and we are disappointed on the British side. We have all the sympathy for Mrs Thatcher, but Mrs Thatcher has done nothing for UNITA except complications for us. And I think Mrs Thatcher has a difficult Foreign Office, which has always sent very bad ambassadors to Luanda. Before coming here for this interview, I want only to put a question: How many British citizens we are going to capture more, until we get a policy settled? Never has it been our purpose to hunt for British. But every time you bump on a British citizen, when you want to attack a mine you bump of a British citizen. I think it is embarrassing. We are not against British people, we are not against Mrs Thatcher, but they are complicating our position. We are fighting a war. The British ambassador in Luanda is a bad man. And he's advising the Foreign Office wrongly, because he's agreeing with every lie that MPLA (?allow) him to say: We are going to reinforce our defense, bring the British. It has been five times, maybe we may have the sixth, the seventh, the eighth, is embarrassing. [as heard]

[Lalagne] Can you predict that there will be more hostages, British hostages, in that case?

[Savimbi] Until the Foreign Office decides to listen to us and not to their envoy, it is possible that we may bump on another British citizen against our will. And what we are going to do, we don't know. But it is embarrassing. [end recording]

FAPLA Kills 50 'Bandits' in 13-20 Feb Operations

MB171416 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] National Defense and Security forces killed 50 bandits belonging to the UNITA puppet group operations carried out between 13 and 20 February. ANGOP quotes an authorized military source as saying that the losses inflicted on the enemy were the result of hot pursuit operations carried out by FAPLA in the Provinces of Cuanza Sul, Malanje, Lunda Sul, Bengela, and Moxico. In the same operations, FAPLA captured a considerable amout of arms and other war materiel and released several civilians living under the yoke of the puppet groups.

MOZAMBIQUE

Over 70,000 Being Repatriated From Malawi

MB171720 Dakar PANA in English 1716 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Maputo, 17 March (ZIANA/PANA) — More than 70,000 Mozambican refugees are being repatriated from Malawi under a joint programme with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The director of the Mozambique office assisting refugees and liberation movements, Anorande Fazenda, said this in an interview with ZIANA, in Maputo today. Towards the end of last year Mozambique and Malawi were at odds over Malawi's alleged support for MNR bandits battling against the Mozambique Government.

But ZIANA's correspondent currently touring Mozambique reports that he has been told the rebels are getting less support from Malawi because of the operations of the joint security commission between Malawi and Mozambique, and that the rebels were being squeezed into the central region of the country. Mozambique's former ambassador to Ethiopia and external affairs spokesman for Frelimo, Alberto Sithole, also told ZIANA that the Zimbabwe Government has provided schooling, clothing and food for the thousands of Mozambican displaced persons in the border areas.

On the Nkomati Accord and South African backing for the bandits, Sithole said that Frelimo and its government did not, by signing the accord, mean that it agreed with apartheid.

Earlier, a leading academic at the Centre of African studies of the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Rob Davies said in an interview that Nkomati was signed after nearly four billion U.S. dollars worth of damage was caused to the Mozambican economy by the armed infiltration into the south of the country from South Africa. Recently a South African plan to re-supply the rebels with 250 tonnes of arms, called Operation Blockade, was thwarted and the military in Pretoria have also been unable to open up supply lines along the coastal region.

Davies said that as a result of the rebels getting less support from Malawi, South Africa was infiltrating more armed bandits into the southern part of the country. Overall, the MNR was under the direct command of South African generals who have issued instructions to the bandits not waste their bullets but cut the throats of the people and Frelimo leaders.

Zambezia Refugees Require Emergency Food Aid

MB180735 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Zambezia Province needs 42,000 tons of foodstuffs to support the emergency program for war refugees in the next 6 months. This was disclosed at a seminar of the coordination council of the Department of Prevention and Fight Against Natural Disasters held in Quelimane recently.

According to the same source there are 850,000 displaced persons in Zambezia Province. Some of these persons are already

organized in [unexplained break in transmission] in several Zambezia districts.

Swedish Party Official Arrives, Lauds Relations

MB170704 Maputo Domestic in Portuguese 0400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi gave a dinner in honor of Bo Toresson, secretary general of the Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party, at a Maputo hotel last night. Bo Toresson, who arrived in Maputo yesterday morning, has already been received by Prime Minister Mario Machungo, with whom he discussed the prevailing situation in southern Africa and cooperation between Sweden and Mozambique.

At the dinner, the prime minister stated this visit by a senior Swedish official to Mozambique, after his party had recommended the implementation of economic sanctions against South Africa, represents a stance which is consistent with equality, independence, and love for freedom. In turn, Bo Toresson described relations between Sweden and Mozambique as good.

Meets With Chissano

MB171447 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] At the Central Committee Headquarters in Maputo late this morning, Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, received Bo Toresson, secretary general of the Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party. Joaquim Chissano said on the occasion that the visit to Mozambique by the Swedish politician would lead to the further strengthening of bilateral relations. He also hailed Sweden's imposition of sanctions against South Africa.

In turn, Bo Toresson said his party supported national reconstruction in Mozambique. He also disclosed he was bearing a message from Ingvar Carlsson, chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party and prime minister, inviting President Joaquim Chissano to take part in that party's congress which is due next September.

Chissano Swears in New Minister, Maputo Official

MB171949 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Every time we appoint a new leader, our people expect a new driving force. This is what the president of the Republic said today when he swore in Joao Mario Salomao and Joao Baptista Cosme, the newly appointed minister of construction and water and chairman of the Maputo City Executive Council, respectively. The ceremony was held at Ponta Vermelha Palace late this afternoon in the presence of members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, the Council of Ministers, and other party and state officials as well as officials of mass democratic organizations.

After the two leaders swore to carry out their new tasks with devotion, Chissano said this ceremony was part of implementation of the decisions of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, particularly those aimed at decentralizing the functions of some party and state leaders. According to President Chissano, the appointment of these new leaders will strengthen party and state structures. He said the leaders who are sworn in today are comrades who were selected after long study among cadres. We are certain they willcarry out the tasks that we entrusted to them, the Mozambican head of state said. The president of the Republic also spoke about the qualities of Joao Baptista Cosme who previously exercised the functions of national director, provincial governor, minister, ambassador, and most recently, governor of Cabo Delgdo Province. He went on to say that he will now run Maputo City, which has the status of a province, and that accordingly, Joao Baptista Cosme is the governor of Maputo City. The president of the Republic concluded his address by saying, as pointed out above, that every time that we appoint a new leader, our people expect a new driving force.

Sofala Experiencing 'Serious Famine Situation'

MB171238 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] In Beira City, the Department for Prevention and Combat Against Natural Disasters has convoked an emergency meeting with representatives of international aid organizations in Sofala Province. The meeting, scheduled for Thursday, will serve to make the international community aware of preventive measures that must be taken to counter the serious famine caused by drought in Sofala Province. The worst hit areas are Beira City and Machanga, Buzi, and Marromeu Districts, where large crop plantations are believed lost due to low rainfall.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Discusses Constitution, Resolution 435

MB171240 Dakar PANA in French 1055 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Harare, 17 Mar (PANA) -- SWAPO President Sam Nujoma has rejected South Africa's imposition of a new constitution in Namibia. He stated that it was yet another ploy by the racist Pretoria regime to delay independence and maintain its colonial domination of the territory.

In an exclusive interview with PANA in Harare recently, the SWAPO president said: We only want free, just, and democratic elections under UN supervision and in accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 435. He also stated that under this so-called constitution, Namibia will become a sovereign state with a flag and a national anthem, but with a president without any power, who is just a figurehead really, at its head and a ghost prime minister. On this issue, Mr Nujoma said that under this constitution, which was established by a South African judge, all power will remain with the so-called constitutional council and its legislative organs, as advised by that judge. Mr Nujoma stressed that legislative power will reside in colonial judges who will act in conformity with the desires of South African President Pieter Botha.

On the issue of whether SWAPO is ready to negotiate with South Africa through the mediation of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is the current acting chairman of the Frontline States, Mr Nujoma declared he has always supported (?the offer) and will continue to do so. However, he insisted on the need for the Namibian people to have the legitimate right to elect their own deputies and to decide on their own destiny instead of having to accept the DTA interim government's neocolonialist constitutional decisions and the bantustans. Mr Nujoma added that the bantustan policy is condemned and rejected by the Namibian people, who are actively supported by the Frontline States, the OAU, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement.

With regard to the information blackout in Namibia, Mr Nujoma recalled that the State of Emergency has existed since 1972 and that it was strengthened by martial law in 1982 and 1985 as well as District Act 1 [preceding two words in English] imposed by South Africa through its colonial administrator in Namibia. This clearly shows that Namibia has been under martial law for a number of years, which explains the information blackout, he stated. Mr Nujoma also pointed out that the District Security Act [preceding three words in English] forbids journalists from leaving Windhoek without police or army authorization, but no permission need be requested from the colonial administration.

Mr Nujoma also accused South Africa of using special units to destroy schools and arrest teachers and pupils who are subsequently sent to military camps. Mr Nujoma also referred to South Africa's militarization tendencies which, he said, had extended the South African Defense Act [preceding four words in English] to Namibia. In terms of this act, Namibians aged between 17 and 55 are enrolled in the army. Mr Nujoma said this is happening because the South African soldiers are demoralized and trying to make the Namibians fight among themselves, thereby Namibianizing [Namibianiser] the war. He said the situation is very serious in this regard. It must be believed that the South Africans have decided to massacre the Namibians to reduce their numbers, Mr Nujoma declared.

Moreover, the SWAPO president stated that very little publicity is given to the war, including the use of chemical weapons, which South Africa is waging against the Namibian people, who are estimated to total a million. He mentioned reports received from civilians that the enemy has been poisoning water wells, especially in villages in the so-called operational areas.

On the issue of whether sanctions against South Africa should be extended to Namibia, Mr Nujoma said that real war against the present administration in Namibia must be carried out by the Namibians themselves. However, he praised the efforts being made by those countries which annnounced their intention to impose economic sanctions against South Africa to accelerate the process of dismantling apartheid.

On the possibility of Western secret services infiltrating SWAPO's ranks, Mr Nujoma said it was obvious that the imperialist countries would always seek to infiltrate their agents to obtain information. However, that is not a new thing in our liberation movement and they will not succeed, he added. With regard to the situation in South Africa, Mr Nujoma condemned the racist South African regime for its destablization tactics and its use of Namibian territory to attack the Frontline States.

The SWAPO president also said the South African Air Force had used the air base at Mpashnan, near Katimamulilo, in the Caprivi strip, to carry out its attacks on the Lusaka suburb of Makeni, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. He added that South Africa also uses this region to train bandits which it sends clandestinely to Angola to massacre villagers and sabotage Angola's economic infrastructure. Mr Nujoma said the same thing applies to the MNR bandits, who are trained and armed by South Africa and then infiltrated in Mozambique to destabilize the country. Diplomatic sources say the constitution project is currently under revision in Windhoek, the Namibian capital.

SWAPO Official Lauds Meeting With Businessmen

MB171158 Dakar PANA in English 0908 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Lusaka, 17 Mar (ZANA/PANA) — The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) is trying to woo more whites opposed to the illegal occupation of Namibia to wage a united military, political and diplomatic battle against racist South Africa. SWAPO Deputy Secretary for Information Kandy Nehova was reported by the government-owned *Zambia Daily Mail* yesterday as urging whites opposed to the illegal occupation to join the struggle spearheaded by SWAPO.

The paper reported Nehova as saying that the fruitful meeting SWAPO held last week in Lusaka with the organisation of German-speaking Namibians was the beginning of further contacts with a wider section of the local white community. During the next two years we hope to take some important steps involving the white community for the overall struggle for our independence. Our aim is to mobilise whites to join SWAPO even as freedom fighters, Nehova said.

He said the group agreed in principle to a point put forward by SWAPO including demands for the withdrawal of South African troops under a UN supervised ceasefire and elections as laid down in Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. Nehova said the delegation also agreed to undertake a public relations exercise on behalf of SWAPO to assure the business community in Namibia that they would not lose their personal property to a black government as South African propaganda has conditioned them to believe.

With the security situation deteriorating, he said, it was for the interest of the business community to join SWAPO, because they could not get any guarantee of protection from the so-called interim government installed by the Pretoria regime in Windhoek nor could the occupation troops provide safety as the SWAPO military action intensified.

Meanwhile, a statement released by the SWAPO office in Lusaka on Sunday said the talks with the businessmen centered on the future of Namibia and how to break the stalemate over the implementation of Resolution 435.

The visitors blamed the prolonged colonial presence of South Africa in Namibia for the loss of life, property, as well as creation

of (?unemployment) and insecurity in the country. The statement, said the group submitted proposals aimed at helping break the Namibian impasse which SWAPO accepted to study before making a commitment.

SOUTH AFRICA

CP, NRP, NP View Socioeconomic Progress

MB141327 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Report on separate interviews with Willie Snyman, Conservative Party MP for Pietersburg; Bill Sutton, leader of the New Republic Party; and Barend du Plessis, minister of finance, by Freek Robinson and unidentified reporters on the "Network" program introduced by Riaan Cruywagen — passages within quotation marks videorecorded]

[Text] [Cruywagen] We turn our attention to socioeconomic progress in tonight's election feature. Members of our election editorial staff have asked for the views of the National Party, the New Republic Party, and the Conservative Party on the issue.

[Snyman] "As far as I am concerned, we are in a situation with which we should be very very careful, with regard to social upliftment programs, because we find ourselves with an aging population, the problem of a Third World phenomenon. We also have a limited economic sector which will have to finance the accomplishment of those goals.

[Reporter] "Who should pay for the social and economic uplifting of the masses?

[Snyman] "It is the Conservative Party's view, one radically different from that of the government, that each group be provided with land where it may exercise its own laws and allied social development. For example, if we look at the allowances for children paid from state funds in 1983, one sees that whites received 21 million rands; coloreds and Indians combined, 105 million rands. If we also take into account that whites are responsible for 88.8 percent of the total amount of personal income tax, then I find the burden on whites is unfair, and that they should rather make provision for their own people in their own areas.

[Reporter] "Doctor, what kind of project should be given priority in state spending?

[Snyman] "I would think that education and schooling of people should be given priority because, you know, as Confucius said thousands of years ago, if you give a person a fish every day, he will not be able to provide for his own needs, but teach him to catch fish and he will always have food."

[Robinson] "Let's talk about social upliftment. First, do you agree this is necessary, socially, in education, and so on? And who should pay for it?

[Sutton] "I believe the money should come from the Treasury, in the normal way.

[Robinson] "What would be the priorities in this social reform?

[Sutton] "Education, housing, these two. I know that in the President's Council we are examining housing and influx control. There is a great need for black housing, and we have worked out a strategy on how the shortage can be overcome. So, of course, the state must contribute. But the way we see it, as we have stipulated in that report, is to say the person himself must be given an opportunity to make his own contribution to it. He must be able to borrow money, although he must get a basic sum from government. But there's what we call sweat equity. [preceding phrase in English] He must put in some of his own effort, his own work, to improve his position.

[Robinson] "And what percentage of the national budget should be allocated to this social reform, as opposed to other areas?

[Sutton] "Well, I don't know. I have never considered that. But I believe we must ensure that we satisfy everyone; that is important. And because blacks are not at presently involved in the discussions on the budget, they must be given a chance to discuss it, so we can reach a formula that is fair to all."

[Cruywagen] We also asked the views of the NP on socioeconomic upliftment. Minister of Finance Barend du Plessis was asked who pays for these services.

[Du Plessis] "The taxpayer pays for all services provided by the state. At the end of the day, it is the taxpayer. But because the taxpayer can only be taxed a certain maximum, there is a limit to the services, the number and quality of services that the state can provide. There is a need for more services from the government, much more than can possibly be met with available funds. As a result, one must consider the possibility of consumers paying, the so-called user charges. [preceding phrase in English] Then members of the public who can afford it will pay their own costs. In other words, we must test to establish where needs exist. The state should assist where there is the greatest need, instead of providing services to all, even to those who can afford it.

[Reporter] "What projects should have priority for state funds?

[Du Plessis] "South Africa is a developing country. First, we have a tremendous need for the development of our human resources. In addition, there is also the typical infrastructure and all that goes with development. That means education, it means training facilities, it means the economy must grow so that there are jobs for the people in whom the government has invested. That is a great priority, and the government has channeled vast amounts into human infrastructure, social infrastructure, housing, hospital services, and so forth in the past few years. In addition, there are also the elderly, who have to be looked after, and the less privileged. At the time of poor economic growth like at present, we must pay attention to people with low incomes and to the unemployed. But South Africa is also in a situation where we must make a great effort in regard to law and order and to the security of the country. We are facing threats. That also takes a lot. Then we have to protect ourselves against sanctions; we must stockpile oil and other strategic materials. Thus, at the moment, this country has the greatest total commitment in our history to spending in a variety of areas.

[Reporter] "What percentage of the national budget will be spent on this?

[Du Plessis] We have a 5-year plan, which is being implemented for the first time in the budget to be tabled in parliament in June. This conversion plan was drawn up on the basis of certain historical developments, but also on a comprehensive revision of priorities which have emerged over the past 2 or 3 years, and which will culminate in a new program of spending. So one cannot simply say one can deviate from that drastically, nor can one say one will adhere to those percentages forever. But in any case, we will spend roughly 16 percent of the budget on education under this program. We are spending around 14 percent of the budget on defense, 7.5 percent on various welfare services, 5.5 percent on health services. But the need is so great that we will have to make increasing efforts to privatize certain services so that people pay for them themselves. We will also have to introduce ways to fund services in other areas as well, so that the state will only provide the basics, and the public will pay for all additional services."

NP Candidate Claims ANC Plans To Disrupt Election

MB170702 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2335 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg March 16 SAPA — Former security intelligence officer, Mr Craig Williamson, said tonight, he had information direct from ANC moderates in London that the organisation was behind a campaign to sow confusion and division among whites in the May 6 election. Mr Williamson, the National Party Candidate in Bryanston, said he had been told a meeting of the ANC and the South African Communist Party in London late last year had decided to formulate a project aimed at mobilising white so-called "progressive democratic organisations" to sow confusion and divide the white electorate.

The undertaking was code-named "Project Rose".

Mr Williamson said he was satisfied his information was accurate.

He said one of the project's objectives had been to put up an independent candidate in the election, but this had been vetoed on the grounds that if uncovered, indirect participation in the parliamentary process could cause harm to the ANC.

Another part of the project was that the ANC military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe, [Spear of the Nation] should escalate its terror campaign during the election run up. Part of the campaign was for "symbolic candidates" to make issues, centred in church and youth groups and leftist organisations.

Mr Williamson said one of the objectives was to hamper the National Party in getting a mandate to continue reform, a process seen as damaging to the ANC. Project Rose had three objectives, he said: to sow confusion among the white electorate, to gain international publicity, and to demonstrate to black radicals that they had white supporters.

Tutu Says Whites Must Prepare for Majority Rule

MB171503 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1451 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 17, SAPA — White South Africans had to prepare themselves for an inevitable popular black majority government, the archbishop of Cape Town, Rev Desmond Tutu, said today. He addressed the Cape Town Press Club.

The logic of South Africa's history and its demography made it inevitable that it was going to have a majority government. "Ethnicity has nothing to do with it," he said. "We will have a popular government, a democratically elected government because we will have a just, non-racial and truly democratic dispensation where people will count, not because of silly irrelevant biological attributes, but because they are human being created in the image of God. That is the truth about South Africa and white people should be prepared for that state of affairs."

Bishop Tutu, who was to have spoken on sanctions and the church, spoke about "scapegoatism" and concentrated on his role as archbishop of Cape Town and "Tutu-bashing".

"Many English newspapers cannot resist the temptation of using a universal short cut to popularity with their white readers by indulging in Tutu-bashing. That is why I said in Vienna last year that most of them had sold their birthright for a mess of pottage," he said.

He said people overseas were not anti-South African or anti-white; they were anti-apartheid and certainly anti-racist. "They honour me not in a personal capacity but in the representative capacity." He was the conduit to take back their support, solidarity, caring, concern and love to all black and white South Africans.

"How I wish our papers would reflect this and not as anti-South African, anti-injustice, anti-apartheid action." The hostile media had done their work well. "You should see the looks I get at airports in South Africa. If looks could kill, I have been murdered by perfectly decent aunties and mothers who hate the very sight of me. Many would support Rooi Rus [Red Russian] Swanepoel, formerly interrogator of people held in detention without trial, now gentle, (in saying) that I should be carried out feet first. Imagine if a black person had said something similar about Professor Heyns [moderate of the Dutch Reformed Church] — the security police would have been on him like greased lightning," Archbishop Tutu said.

"Even if they got rid of me, what would that do to solve the apartheid crisis? We are seen, especially by young blacks, as standing in the way of revolution and it is possible that whites may one day realise what we actually did and how much they do owe to such as those who they have most loved to hate, whom they have delighted to see vilified and discredited so much."

Turning to "what must be done", he said the problem was not Soviet expansionism, even though Russians may have eyes on lucrative natural resources. The Russian leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's "glasnost" [openness] policy indicated that he wanted a thaw and did not want to undermine this by ill-

conceived imperialistic misadventures, although he still wanted to portray Russia as the supporter of people's movements for self-determination.

"The enemy is not the agitators," he said. The enemy was apartheid and people had to be told the truth. "Let us identify the problem and prepare the people for the inevitable. No amount of defence spending, no arming to the teeth, nothing the government or anyone else tries to do, will ultimately prevent the inevitable happening — a majority government."

Criticizes State of Emergency

MB171505 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1456 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town, March 17, SAPA — Unrest would break out once the State of Emergency was lifted, the archbishop of Cape Town, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, said here today. He compared the State of Emergency to an aspirin taken for a toothache, which brought only momentary relief but left the ailment untouched.

Addressing the Cape Town Press Club, he said he had told the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, that the lifting of the State of Emergency was an absolute minimum requirement for negotiation.

"He said I had seen what had happened when he lifted the first State of Emergency. I said, precisely, that proves my point.

"It is like aspirin taken for a toothache, bringing momentary relief. When its effect wears off, you still have the toothache.

"It won't do to erode even further what minimial pretensions there are to being a country where the rule of law obtains by detaining without trial even children so outrageously, by severe curbs on the media: That is ultimately an exercise in futility.

"Any calm is only a surface calm, thoroughly deceptive, with things seething below, likely to erupt at any time," he said.

No Incidents as KwaMashu Students Boycott School

MB171215 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1158 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Durban, Mar 17, SAPA — Hundreds of schoolchildren in KwaMashu, outside Durban, boycotted classes today, according to the Bureau for Information.

According to the bureau, security forces were on stand-by, but so far no unrest-related incidents had occurred. Senior police officer in a police helicopter were watching the situation.

The reason for the boycotts is unknown.

Tension High in KwaMashu

MB171543 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] There is massive tension in Durban's KwaMashu township where the bodies of seven pupils were found today. The seven, all aged between 15 and 17, were found with bullet and stab wounds in an isolated lane close to a KwaMashu High School. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Rickard] While police continue their massive search for the killers of the seven school boys, tension and fear are growing in the area. KwaMashu residents claim the seven were killed by people from the nearby squatter area, Lindelani, apparently in retaliation for the killing of a pupil from Lindelani yesterday. At (Qubule Bahle) High School the principal ordered buses this morning to take pupils home because they were so distressed at the discovery of the bodies. While the buses were loading the pupils a group of about 50 people from Lindelani arrived and claimed the teachers were teaching what they called UDF ways. They attacked the principal, vice principal, some of the teachers and pupils. So far it seems no one was seriously hurt in this attack, and a pupil rescued the principal, taking him away in a car.

Buthelezi Defends Legitimacy of KwaZulu

MB171246 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Durban, Mar 17, SAPA — The legitimacy of the South African Government ultimately depended on it accepting the legitimacy of black opposition, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said today at the opening of the fifth session of the fourth KwaZulu legislative assembly. The chief minister of KwaZulu and president of Inkatha warned white South Africa "not to live in a fool's paradise" and believe the country's military might in Africa defined the legitimacy of the South African Government.

Legitimacy centred around the issue of black political rights. Legitimacy for the KwaZulu government depended on the extent and the effectiveness of its opposition to apartheid.

Chief Buthelezi was "appalled" at the extent to which the South African Government "repeatedly attempts to pull the legitimacy rug from beneath our feet..."

He did not expect "accolades" from the government for KwaZulu's "opposition to their iniquitous policies" but by its under-achievement the government was "stoking the fires that are raging in our troubled land."

If this was not stopped by "same politics" it could burn down the country.

Chief Buthelezi noted the government did not send a cabinet minister to open the assembly and asked the administrator of Natal, Mr R.C. Cadman.

"A cabinet minister was not sent to officially open the session because the frankness in this house has always been cause for much concern in Pretoria," he added.

"It is an open secret that it has always been difficult for ministers of the republican government to come to Ulundi."

He thanked Mr Cadman for "coming to the rescue" and said the session was opening at a time of deepening political crisis in South Africa.

Guests at the opening ceremony included King Leka and Queen Susan of Albania (now living in exile in South Africa), members of the diplomatic corps, the Natal leader of the PFP, Mr Ray Swart, and numerous leaders of commerce and industry in Natal and KwaZulu.

Chief Buthelezi said the state president called a whites-only general election in a situation in which it "wanted to do what cannot be done and does not know how to do that which can be done..."

"It sits in a dilemma of attempting the impossible, knowing that it is doing just this. It is a government without any excuse whatsoever for being in a dilemma. No government can continue attempting to do the politically impossible as persistently as the South African Government is attempting to do, without landing itself in its own internal political crisis. There will be no healing of the National Party if there is no healing of South Africa," said Chief Buthelezi.

"Unsolved national crisis in South Africa's social, economic and political life will leave a legacy of unsolved crisis in the National Party itself."

The crisis the government was going through was a crisis for opposition political parties, the country's commercial, mining, banking and industrial leaders and a crisis for the country's spiritual and intellectual life. "It is a crisis which affects every friend South Africa ever had abroad."

Chief Buthelezi said the struggle being waged in the Kwazulu legislative assembly was the same as the struggle waged by the founding fathers of the African National Congress. "The ANC, from the days of its inception right through to the time of the leadership of Chief Albert Lutuli, struggled to gain black acceptance into the country's social, economic and political systems. The vast, vast majority of black South Africans continue to wage this struggle even today."

He said the KwaZulu government's and Inkatha's opposition to apartheid was legitimate opposition.

There were those who were shaken by intimidatory violence unleashed against those who pursued "these noble objectives of the black struggle for liberation..."

"These anarchists have attempted to create doubts in the minds of the weak amongst us, in an effort to make them believe that we are guilty of treachery by following the objectives which earned Chief Albert Lutuli the accolade of the Nobel Peace Prize. He was committed to non-violence as we are committed and he was a true Nobel Peace Laureate who never once tried to speak out of both sides of his mouth."

There were those, he said, who claimed the KwaZulu legislative assembly was not a legitimate organ of second-tier government and who labelled him with "all sorts of opprobrious epithets."

He said South Africa and the world was greatly encouraged by emerging ferment in the National Party. "Every white voter who supports the challenge being thrust at Mr Botha by senior members of his party, act to legitimise the South African political system. "It is the only hope of radical change which can in the end keep the legitimacy of the South African Government alive."

New Cape Paper To Fight Apartheid 'Aggressively'

MB161514 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English 13 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] The first issue of *South*, an independent weekly newspaper aimed at young politically aware Cape people, will hit the streets next Thursday.

At a press briefing yesterday, *South* editor Mr Rashid Seria said it would not be a mouthpiece for any political organization, but would "promote a non-racial democratic South Africa" and would "aggressively fight apartheid."

It would be "less intellectual" than the *Weekly Mail*, more serious than *City Press* and would concentrate primarily on Cape issues. Mr Seria described *South* as a "popular/political" paper which would "investigate and expose" social problems.

South has set up a journalist-training programme and intends establishing a news agency.

The projects are funded by a trust to which various church organizations have contributed. The trustees include Mrs Di Bishop, Prof Jakes Gerwel, Dr Charles Villa-Vicencio and Dr Allan Boesak.

South is selling blocks of 250 shares at R1 a share and hopes to earn extra income from advertising. The paper, to cost 40c a copy, will initially be distributed in the city, then in the rest of the Western and Eastern Cape.

Mr Seria said *South* hoped to reach a circulation of 500,000 copies a week in its first year.

7,000 Workers Strike at 2 Transvaal Mines

MB161554 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1557 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg, March 16, SAPA — About 7,000 workers went on strike today at two mines in the Transvaal, the National Union of Mineworkers reports. NUM's Assistant General Secretary Mr Marcel Golding said about 6,000 workers at the Gencor [General Mining Union Corporation]-owned Grootvlei gold mine on the East Rand remained underground after the morning shift today, in a sit-in protest at the transfer of colleagues to different grades of work.

The union is investigating the strike and has contacted mine management to begin negotiations about the workers' grievances. In the other strike at Anglo-American's New Vaal colliery in Vereeniging, the total black labour force of 1,100 stopped work. The union was still trying to contact its shaft stewards to find out the cause of the strike and was planning to begin negotiations with management today, Mr Golding said.

Swazi Delegation Carries Message to P.W. Botha

MB171105 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] A three-man Swaziland delegation is in Cape Town to deliver a message from King Mswati III to President P.W. Botha of South Africa. The delegation which consists of the chairman of the Swaziland Civil Service Board, Mr Ben Nsibandze; the principal secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Zachariah Mkhonta; and member of parliament, Mr Martin Mdziniso, is expected to return home tomorrow. The content to their message to President Botha has not been disclosed.

Information Bureau Issues 17 Mar Unrest Report

MB180812 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0807 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, Mar 18, SAPA — Herewith follows the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the 24-hour period ending at midnight last night:

"The names of five of the boys whose bodies were found in a ditch in KwaMashu near Durban yesterday, have been released by the police. They were Bheki Mgwaba, 15; Mdu Mkhize, 17; Boy Thulani Mkhwanazi, 16; Siphiwe Ndlovu, 15; and Boysie Mbele, 16. The names of two other victims will be released when their next-of-kin have been notified.

"The bodies were found at approximately 08h00 Tuesday. Each had been stabbed several times. The motive for the murders is, as yet, unknown.

"In Sharpeville near Vereeniging a group of about thirty black youths threw stones at the owner of a private vehicle when he refused them transport. A black woman was slightly injured in this incident. No arrests have been reported.

"The SAP announced today that the explosion on Monday night in which a light delivery vehicle was demolished, had been caused by a commercial explosive. The vehicle belonged to Mr Eric Meyer of Halfwayhouse."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB180640 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: No Support for Independents

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 17 March says Horace van Rensburg, former PFP MP for Bryanston, is "standing as an independent Independent — a different breed to the present trio," Worrall, Malan, and Lategaan. "We do not think there is a place for Independents. So although Mr van Rensburg is a true moderate, we cannot support his candidacy." *The Citizen* also refers to Denis Worrall saying he is no "Knight of Moderation" nor the "new Messiah." "He is a former academic and former ambassador who, with his two Independent colleagues, talks in cliches about a new spirit, about equal rights, about freeing Black political parties, yet does not want one man, one vote, does not suggest any solution to the problem of including Blacks in a new dispensation since this would prescribe to the Blacks, and supports the emergency."

STAR on Need for Black Political Power

"Any move to upgrade Alexandra township, a festering sore near the heart of one of the richer cities in the world, could not have come too soon," notes a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 17 March. "The State's latest gesture may not be enough to turn the township into a paradise, and it should have come decades ago. But at least it is a start and deserves huge support. But the other part of the Government's plan — a frantic psychological battle to win the hearts and minds of its people in the war against the country's enemies — has to be approached with caution." "The secret, in fact, is not in trying to buy 'hearts and minds' — a futile exercise — it is in encouraging people to make up their own minds, and allowing them to create the kind of community they themselves want. It boils down to political power."

SABC Gives Distorted Impression of ANC

A second editorial on the same page says the minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok, gave himself permission to quote banned ANC secretary general, Alfred Nzo. "The Government has never hesitated to manipulate the law if it suits its purposes. If it doesn't suit, the ban remains in force and offenders may be prosecuted. In this way a distorted impression of the ANC has been created. Unwittingly, the Government helps leftist extremists. It makes them out to be far more dangerous, far more powerful, than they really are." "This enforced ignorance is compounded further by SABC propagandists, who use television and radio bulletins to give maximum projection the ANC bogey."

Government Plan To 'Hijack' Revolution

"The essence of the Government's sweeping counter-revolutionary strategy amounts to hijacking the revolution for itself," writes political correspondent David Braun on page 15. "Government planners believe there are four ways to win the revolutionary onslaught they have identified: Exterminate the revolutionaries or resettle the civilian population"; use the "military or police approach" — "Uncoventional use of the security forces (for example the use of undercover personnel and vehicles)"; "surrender or seeking accommodation with the revolutionaries," but the government rejects this option; "stealing the thunder of the revolutionaries. This is the option the South African security forces have opted for." "At the same time drastic action must be taken to eliminate the underlying social and economic factors which have caused unhappiness in th population and which have lent themselves to be exploited for revolutionary purposes." This is being dealt with by means of a "massive undertaking known as the National Management System. Through this system virtually every Government department is co-ordinated to administer the black townships. At

grassroots level this takes the form of Mini Joint Managements Centres (JMCS) or 'Minis'. The Minis report to sub-JMCS which in turn report to JMCS which in turn again are co-ordinated by the Joint Security Staff."

BUSINESS DAY on Afrikaans Press

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 17 March comments on the resignation of David de Villiers from the board of Nasionale Pers (National Press), and the chairman Piet Cillie's statement that De Villiers "would now be drawn into 'a maelstrom of anti-nationalist hysteria'." "Anybody who has the least understanding of the role played by both men in establishing Nationalist hegemony over South Africa, and of the depth of emotion which Afrikaner nationalists (as well as Nationalists) feel towards Nasionale Pers's Cape newspaper, *Die Burger*, must appreciate the undertone of pain and regret in this parting of ways. This is no ordinary difference of opinion, but a cracking at the very base of the National Party." "Whatever the polls say, perceptive and dedicated Nationalists like Cillie know that its base is cracking, and they will break the Afrikaans Press, if they must, rather than permit dissidents like Pakendorf and De Klerk and De Villiers to retain a permanent foothold within their camp. The Afrikaans press is being brought to heel."

SOWETAN Criticizes Minister Quote of Nzo

"The whites-only election campaign would have been extremely amusing if it was not our very lives that these people are tossing about so cheerfully," notes the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 17 March. "What do you make of a man who makes a law that turns living people into unquotable corpses, but when he wants to make a point at an election rally he revitalises the corpse and with a neat flick of the wrist tells the world that he gives permission to the media to quote Alf Nzo — just to prove his point? Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, played that sick joke on us at the weekend." "We will not get creative solutions when some people are still not allowed to participate in the debate. South Africans will not make intelligent choices for as long as somebody at the top decides what they will hear and what they will not hear. We need unrestricted information and debate to help us create a democratic society, to help us stop the unnecessary bloodletting."

TRANSVALER on Economic Confidence

A page 12 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 16 March says it is understandable that industrialists should be hesitant to invest in South Africa. However, "there are signs of greater confidence — such as was shown by the South African Brewery which invested 500 million rands in shares." "An investment of this nature must be seen as an important motion of confidence in the economic future of the country." The paper points out that "such a large investment can also serve as an encouragement to other institutions," and "does wonders in creating a greater optimistic climate." "Industrialists have no doubt that South Africa, with its minerals and manpower, has the potential to become an economic giant. All that is needed is to utilize this potential to the maximum and to create greater confidence."

Right Wing Violence

A second editorial on the same page says that the "two right wing parties, the HNP and the CP, must take care that they are not playing with fire in their eagerness to outdo one another in their show of force." "Stories and threats of violence are not appropriate in this delicate stage of the country's politics. What is needed more than ever, is a willingness by the white voters to solve their problems through negotiation. Let the right wing deal with their internal fights, but not in such a manner that through their talks of violence they bedevil the negotiation process."

BEELD on Right Wing Leadership Crisis

"The right wing politics is experiencing a leadership crisis," says Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 17 March in a page 10 editorial. "Dr Treurnicht is known as an ideologist, but there is doubt about his capacity as leader," since he has "done little to win confidence for his own party." "On the other hand, there is Jaap Marais, who has kept his party alive for many years, but it has failed to progress." But *Beeld* does not believe that right wing politics matters at all since "it is clear that support for reform is increasing, and that the right wing has little chance of success, jointly or independently. South Africa realizes the need for reform and is prepared for it."

ZAMBIA

Copper Exports No Longer Passing Through RSA

MB171407 Dakar PANA in English 1320 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Lusaka, 17 March (PANA) — The Government of Zambia has confirmed its abandonment of the southern route for copper exports and other minerals in preference to the ports of Beira in Mozambique and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, reports the *Times of Zambia* today.

According to the paper, the minister of mines, Mr Pickson Chitambala, said yesterday that the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCM) had closed its liaison office in South Africa because it is no longer able to carry out its work.

Asked whether this was the start of sanctions against South Africa by Zambia Mr Chitambala replied: No it is just our way of reducing dependence on South Africa. It is a normal routine of doing things.

On the safety of Beira in view of the fighting between Mozambique Government troops and the rebel Mozambique National Resistance guerrilla army along the Beira corridor he said: That is the responsibility of another wing. My interest is to send copper through ports where it will reach its destinations. And so far our copper has been reaching its destinations without hindrance, he said.

Premier Receives DPRK Minister, Hails Nonalignment

MB161951 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Comrade Kebby Musokotwane has said Zambia's strength in the international community lies in her nonalignment, which ensures that she does not become a puppet of any country. Speaking when he met the minister [as heard] of public security for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Yi Sang-pyok, Comrade Musokotwane said Zambia wants to retain her dignity and sovereignty and remain truly nonaligned. Comrade Musokotwane, who assured the minister of Zambia's continuous support, stressed that the strength of Zambia lies in nonalignment because of the liberty it gives to her to criticize or praise when necessary.

Population To Double in 24 Years at Present Rate

MB180724 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Zambian population is likely to double in the next 24 years, unless the party and its government take steps to curb the current growth rate currently placed at 3.4 percent. According to Kabwe branch chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, Kapembwa Sikassula, the nation would not be able to sustain the doubled population because of inadequate resources. Dr Sikassuala, who is also Kabwe General Hospital's acting medical superintendent, was giving a lecture to the participants of the Zambia United local Colleges Workers Union women's seminar taking place at the [name indistinct] College. He urged the government to come up with a clear-cut policy to stem the growth rate of Zambia's population, which he said was one of the highest in Africa.

ZIMBABWE

Senators Demand Action Against Ian Smith

MB180831 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2052 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Harare, March 17, SAPA — Several Zimbabwe senators today called on the government to take drastic action against former Rhodesian prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, for statements in South Africa they said were supportive of the "Pretoria regime's racist policies."

The semi-official news agency ZIANA quoted Senator Chief Charumbira as saying Mr Smith was fully aware that South Africa was Zimbabwe's "mortal enemy carrying out acts of destabilisation and aggression and sponsoring bandits who attacked the country's transport and communication routes through Mozambique." "The government must do something about Mr Smith. The people's conscience has been exhausted," he said.

Former Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ) member, Senator Terence Oatt, said he did not believe that Mr Smith spoke for the white community in Zimbabwe nor did his views represent those of his party. Mr Oatt said Mr Smith spoke "from his conscience" and was not dictated to by his party caucus. He warned the government not to overreact by taking action against Mr Smith. "You should tend, if possible, to ignore Mr Smith's comments," said Senator Oatt. "I think any overreaction on the part of government would give Mr Smith what he is seeking, that is martyrdom."

Senator Lameck Makanda said Mr Smith should be tried for supporting the South African Government. He suggested that an exercise should be undertaken in Zimbabwe at every workplace to determine if there were some whites who shared views similar to those of Mr Smith. Culprits, said Mr Makanda, should be arrested and tried.

Chief Rusambo said inspite of what Mr Smith thought, racism in South Africa would crumble during his lifetime and "not in his thousand years."

CAZ stalwart and Mr Smith's top lieutenant since the 1965 UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence] days, Senator P.K. van der Byl, strongly criticised the introduction of the motion against Mr Smith in the upper house, saying the proper place, would have been the House of Assembly. He said there was no way Mr Smith, a CAZ MP for Bulawayo central, could defend himself in the Senate. Further, Mr van Der Byl said, he believed Mr Smith's utterances in South Africa were not "pro-apartheid." "I do not believe and I have not seen any evidence that anything he said, or might have said, was pro-apartheid," said Mr Van der Byl. He said Mr Smith's comments were certainly not unpatriotic and certainly not pro-apartheid.

The debate adjourned to tomorrow.

Banana Warns Churches Against Propaganda

MB180728 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Members of various churches have been warned against abusing the freedom of worship by spreading malicious propaganda about Zimbabwe. A warning was given by the president, Comrade Canon Banana, during a tour of Epeworth Training College yesterday. The president said the role of the church is to achieve unity in the country and not to spread damaging propaganda about Zimbabwe and its government.

Comrade Banana pointed out an incident in which a tourist, who was believed to be a member of the Evangelical Church, wrote an article criticizing the government. The president said an investigation is being carried out, and anybody at church found to be involved in malicious propaganda about Zimbabwe will be dealt with accordingly.

He urged the students at the college to learn more about the government policies so that they might be able to explain to the people in their churches.